

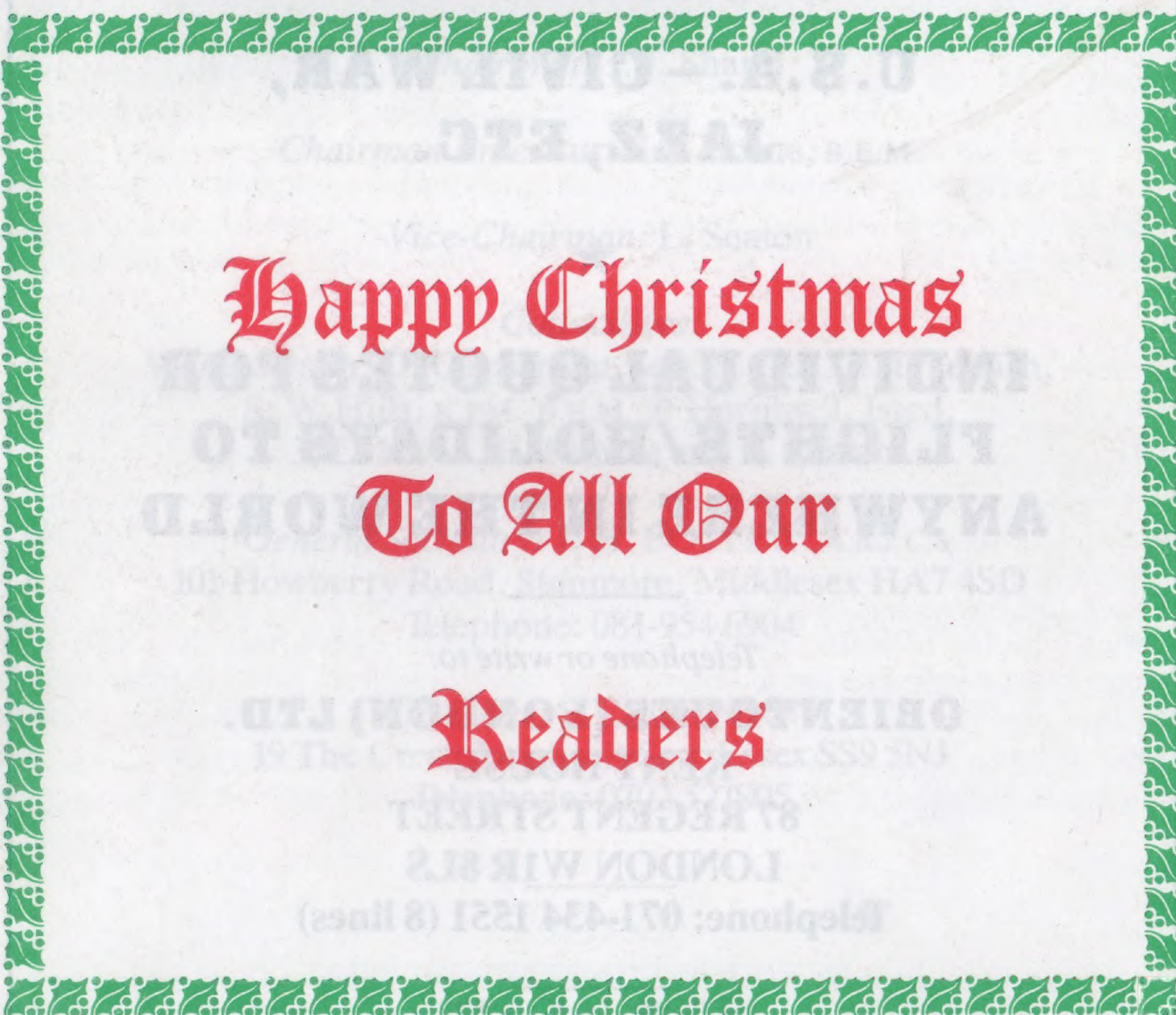


PALESTINE POLICE OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATION

EDITOR

E. P. HORNE, B.E.M., 11 Dolphin Place, Barton on Sea
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NEWSLETTER



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SPECIAL NOTE

To all Branch Secretaries and other contributors:

**Material for the March 1991 issue of the Newsletter should be
in the hands of the Editor by 7th January, 1991.**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MA'AM!

In response to a happy birthday message sent to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother, on the occasion of her 90th birthday recently, the following letter has been received, addressed to T. J. Shand, Esq., The Association Chairman, dated 13th September, 1990.

Dear Mr. Shand,

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother has bidden me to write to thank you for your letter of 2nd August which Her Majesty was pleased to receive.

The Queen Mother much appreciated your message of greetings and good wishes on the occasion of her 90th birthday, and I am to convey to you and to your President, Brigadier Rymer Jones, and all members of the Palestine Police Old Comrades' Association, Her Majesty's sincere gratitude for your kind thought.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Gilliot
Private Secretary to
Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother

The original letter was forwarded to our President, Brigadier J. M. Rymer Jones.

NOTICE

A. F. (Alan) Benstead has a request which we can usefully insert here. Alan is a Donor Member, in some ways a prominent Donor Member since he turns up at the Cenotaph Parade each year and parades on the South Side of the Cenotaph with others of like ilk. Alan is a former member of the Kenya Police and so feels at home with our "lot" to some extent. He has recently acquired a Palestine Police cap badge, with slide-on metal back and he wishes to swap this badge for a Kenya Police cap badge but he urges the "old type" with crown at the top and "Salus Populi" motto beneath. Either King's or Queen's crown will do. Now who amongst us can help Alan in this very reasonable request? So as to write direct, he lives at: NyUmbani, 35 Westwood Lane, Welling, Kent DA16 2HG. Over to you.

Editor

NOTICE

PENSIONS INFORMATION

Scores of war widows who lost out on a Government pension rise have been notified that they may be due for extra money after all (See Daily Telegraph and other sources 30th August, 1990 - Ed.). This applies to women whose husbands were enlisted into the army overseas and were thus classed hitherto as "locally enlisted". Some Palestine Policemen came into this category and one such was

Felix Adler of 1941 vintage in Palestine but was later allowed to leave the force and be re-recruited locally into the British army in the Middle East. Felix in due time lost a leg in Italy and had been disabled ever since. He died a couple of years ago and Mrs. Adler has had to take on the whole might of officialdom to get the same pension rights as she would have received if her husband had joined the army in the U.K. Ridiculous? Yes. But thanks to Mrs. Adler, all is now amended. Anyone else in a similar position should be alerted to this correction of a former wrong. It may apply to a few of our members and/or their widows.

Editor

BOOK SHELF

We are pleased to be able to announce the publication of an interesting book concerning the autobiography of a former Colonial administrator 1937-63 - Eric Bevington, C.M.G. Mr. Bevington started his career as a Cadet Officer in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands in the year 1937 when things were indeed very primitive. The Gilbert Islands alone are extended over a distance of 400 miles and to make a landing on shores protected by dangerous coral reefs in strong surfs and without the benefit of harbours or even landing stages was hair raising enough. It was part of a young officer's duty. The book is written with much light humour and great and sensitive understanding for the people that the author was sent to serve. In short it is absorbing from the very beginning. During the war years and after, in which the writer escaped from the Japanese invaders by a hair's breadth in time, he served with distinction in Fiji with a short time in West Africa.

This is not a book about Palestine, obviously. Nor is it about a former Palestine Policeman. Indeed, our records only show M. A. W. Hook as ever having served in the G. & E. Islands. Only 14 are shown as having served in Fiji, of whom R. H. T. Beaumont (a former Commissioner of Police), A. A. Abraham, R. T. Brooks, A. F. Burke and Ron Bateson are perhaps the best known with George Cullen running the broadcasting. It is a book that reveals the inherent wisdom and decency with which many former colonies were administered. A side that should be more widely known to the public at large.

It comes recommended and can be obtained direct from the author, Eric Bevington, C.M.G., Holmans Cottage, Bisterne Close, Burley, Ringwood, Hampshire BH24 4AZ. It can be obtained at the modest price of £5.50 with postage of £1.20. The ISBN reference is 0 9515762 0 8. Altogether delightful reading.

Another book which has just been published but one which we have not yet had an opportunity to read is The Badge Of Britannia by H. P. Dickson (Mrs.). We understand it is available from bookshops but in any case can be obtained direct from Pentland Press Ltd., 3 Regal Lane, Soham, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB7 5BA. Tel. No. (0353) 723359. It covers the history and reminiscences of the Queen Elizabeth's Nursing Service from 1866-1966 as experienced by Mrs. Dickson herself. This is the service that supplied so many of our nursing sisters

(our nursing angels, we have often termed them) who served in the Government hospitals in Palestine and many of whom we are proud to have as Donor Members of this association. We regret we do not have the ISBN reference to hand but the price is £10.50 plus postage of £1.20. Surely a most interesting and long overdue book.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

London – 6th October 1990

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS (condensed)

The chairman opened the meeting at 3.15 p.m. and mentioned the loss of Lord Caradon, a patron of the Association. He also mentioned other recent losses and asked members present to stand in silence for one minute in their memory. The chairman then pointed out that owing to ill health earlier in the year, he regretted not being able to visit all branch functions in the course of the year. He now felt fully recovered.

He then thanked various member officers of Central Council for the part they had played throughout the year to keep the Association prospering: the general secretary J. H. (John) Foster, the Association treasurer S. P. (Sidney) Johnson, the Newsletter editor E. P. (Ted) Horne, the 'souxh master L. (Len) Sexton, the chairman of the Benevolent Association S. W. (Micky) Hills and indeed the whole team of central councillors, particularly R. H. (Ron) Pemble for his work in restarting and then operating the Derby Sweepstake Draw again, particularly as it was so successful.

In reply to a letter to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother congratulating her and offering her birthday good wishes on the occasion of her 90th birthday, the chairman mentioned her gracious reply, which is printed on a separate page in this issue.

What of the future? The chairman did mention publicity given in the Sunday Express newspaper about the existence of this Association and the projected Cenotaph Parade. From this we received many enquiries from former Palestine Policemen who either had not heard of the Association or thought we had become defunct. Some of these enquiries have become new members. At this point the chairman urged all those present to make every effort to recruit more new or re-recruit lapses so that, hopefully, we may continue into the next century with an association of men who once served with pride in the Palestine Police.

T. J. (Terry) Shand

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, 7th October, 1989 having been circulated in Newsletter 157 (December 1989), it was proposed by R. Turner and seconded by A. Gregson that they be approved. This was agreed unanimously. They were then signed and dated by the chairman.

There were no matters arising therefrom.

T. S. Baxendale proposed that a vote of thanks be recorded to the executive officers. This was seconded by T. Isted and approved.

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT (condensed)

Yet another year has passed, another Association trip to The Holy Land and another re-union weekend is upon us. Who in the 1950s would have believed that in 1990 the Association would still be going strong, so very strongly, with a newsletter distribution of just over 1,300? And it is encouraging that we still manage to get such healthy support at our Annual General Meetings which are often considered to be dull. The Annual Re-union Dinner does not do so well these days. This is undoubtedly due to a number of reasons and one which has surfaced most recently is that of the venue. I can assure all those members who feel that the Westminster Conference Centre is not the best available that we have and shall continue to look at other venues. The Central Council will give this very serious consideration although it may not be possible due to the necessity for the Dinner to be held on the first Saturday in October, because the Memorial Parade at the Cenotaph on the following Sunday is, I am sure everyone will agree, the most important item of the weekend.

We have gained a patron during the year in the person of Lt.-Col. R. Wingate Charlton, O.B.E., D.L., deputy chairman of the Royal Humane Society, former 8th Hussars, Trans Jordan Frontier Force and Arab Legion, who many will recall has attended our Dinners on a number of occasions and, sadly, we have lost a patron in the person of Lord Caradon, P.C., G.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., O.B.E., who died on 5th September, 1990.

The computer is working hard and your general secretary has spent long hours placing many records into it but there are still a great many outstanding. It has paid for itself by enabling the treasurer and the general secretary to keep the records of the Association more accurately and more speedily updated. Some Newsletters have been withdrawn from the mailing list because we have found that subscriptions have not been paid. In some cases for several years. But if we know of a member in financial difficulty we will ensure he remains on the mailing list. The Derby Sweepstake was reintroduced this year and thanks are due to Ron Pemble who is now the organiser. He has agreed to do it again next year and we wish him every success. We had a few queries raised during the year and we hope

they have been settled amicably. We were requested to express our disapproval of security forces' actions in the Israeli occupied territories but made it clear that while individual members may express views on this matter, the Association cannot do so. We must refrain from any political expressions, particularly in the quarterly Newsletter. (This is in the spirit of our own oath of allegiance to the Mandate when we were attested in Palestine. See Police Ordinance 1926 – Ed.) Other items which involve the time of Central Councillors have been: the condition of the cemeteries in The Holy Land; advice given to members in respect of pensions; enquiries regarding medals and the like and also much time on benevolent matters, with reports on visiting sick members, attending funerals and circulating the gist of correspondence. Yet generally speaking this has been a quiet year.

I wish to express my thanks to Central Council for its individual and collective assistance. To S. W. (Micky) Hills for his untiring efforts on behalf of those in hospital or on the sick list. To E. P. Horne for his considerable efforts in editing the Newsletter. To S. P. Johnson for his own great contribution and to my son, Norman, who looked after "the office" during my recent absence in Canada and U.S.A. and to the general membership, most of whom have responded well to the request to update their subscriptions.

Turning to the agenda for our Annual General Meeting – the notice of the meeting and the agenda must be printed in the September issue of the Newsletter and the items for the Newsletter must be with the editor from the general secretary by mid July at the latest. Therefore if any member wishes an item to be placed on the agenda, I must have received it from the proposer together with the seconder by, say, 10th July, preferably earlier if it is to have any hope of seeing the light of day. I expect most would wish to have an expression of opinion on any such matter from Central Council and therefore it would be even better to have such an item by mid June so as to have the benefit of discussion by Central Council. The one item which is always in the members' hands, the election of officers and the nominations for election to Central Council, can be made here if anyone wishes and do not require advance notice. Remember all your Council officers do what they can in their own time, without payment, except for expenses.

John Foster

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION (in full)

I submit this, the ninth Annual Report of the Benevolent Association. During the past year we have made grants to 40 members or widows ranging from £7.00 to £874.38, making a total of £2,125.47. The 1989 figures were 40 grants from £10.00 to £545.00, totalling £2,939.65. Again we have two cases outstanding which may require financial action in the next few weeks. The £874.38 amount was to cover the shortfall in the weekly grant made by the D.S.S. and the charges to enable the late B/M/Const. Harry Turner – a member of Merseyside Branch – to spend his last days in a good nursing home.

This is another field of assistance to Old Comrades – nursing home placement; and one which we feel could be requested again as we all grow older. The Association can, and will, assist but we ask to be consulted before the patient enters the home and certainly before any contract is signed. Failure to do so may result in financial demands which may have to be met from Association funds. At last year's Annual General Meeting, mention was made of using Benevolent Association monies for General Fund purposes. My reply was that such a request was against the constitution of the Association, as approved by the Charity Commissioners and was therefore unlawful. This was accepted by the meeting. I was later informed that there were members who could not afford to attend the annual reunion and could not get a grant from the General Fund. This is not entirely true. In any case and I have mentioned this many times, such a member may qualify for a grant from the Benevolent Association. All we need to know are the details of the member concerned and, in most cases with the assistance of the branches, we will do the rest. But please do not wait until after the event.

I extend my thanks to the committee members – S. W. Hills, T. J. Shand, T. L. Seaton, W. Anderson and E. P. Horne – for all their help and to the many members who assisted with particular cases and to those who made donations without whose generosity the Association would fold.

Sidney Johnson

TREASURER'S REPORT (in full)

(Income and Expenditure Accounts and Balance Sheets of both the General Fund and the Benevolent Association published in Newsletter No. 159 (June 1990).)

I submit the audited accounts for the General Fund and the Benevolent Association for the year ending 31st January 1990, as published in Newsletter No. 159. It is pleasing to note that the General Fund deficit of £4,644 has been turned into a balance of £6,639.63. In the main due to the increased subscriptions and donations and a legacy of £2,000. The computer continues to prompt the general secretary to remind members who are paying less than the minimum rate. We continue to receive a number of increased dues but it is now a trickle compared with last year's spate.

Our costs continue to rise but the Newsletter appears to have levelled out. With inflation over 10%, I expect costs to continue to rise but I anticipate that they can be contained in the present minimum of £10.00 per annum for subscriptions per head. May I remind members wishing to join those who are already paying more than the minimum, they can always increase their payments and so keep our reserves adequate to meet future needs.

The Benevolent Association had another deficit this year of £2,176.89 and again our reserves can cope. However, in order to maintain the level of assistance to Old Comrades and their dependents, we are looking for ways to keep the reserve fund in good shape. Thanks to Ron Pemble, Esq., who has taken over the task of collator of the Derby Sweepstake, the Benevolent Association received

£618.60 from the profit allocation. We also had a further £232.24 for the efforts of Michael Hills, Esq., in selling tickets.

It is a marvellous thing to be able to help Old Comrades in need but we need funds to maintain the service. I ask all who can give a little extra to send their donations to me. Cheques should be made payable to P.P.O.C.B.A. They will be gratefully received and will be faithfully applied.

Remember – yesterday's headlines are today's statistics.

Sidney Johnson

W. Anderson then proposed and V. B. Stockwell seconded that the accounts of the O.C.A General Fund be approved. This was carried unanimously. R. Hamilton then proposed and R. Turner seconded that the Benevolent Association accounts be approved and this too was carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The gavel was handed to the vice-chairman, L. Seaton, Esq., and the business of electing a chairman for the year 1990/91 was proceeded with. T. J. Shand, Esq., having expressed his willingness to stand for re-election and there being no other nominations, it was proposed by L. Seaton, Esq., from the chair that he be re-elected as chairman for the ensuing year. This was seconded by W. Freer and was unanimously approved by the meeting. The gavel was then handed back to the new chairman and there followed the business of the election of officers.

Vice-chairman. It was proposed by E. P. Horne and seconded by R. Turner that L. Seaton, Esq. be re-elected as vice-chairman. There being no other nominations, he was re-elected unanimously.

Councillors. The undermentioned councillors were proposed and seconded individually. In each case there was a vote by show of hands.

W. Anderson, proposed by J. Nash, seconded by D. Dickson. D. Cartwright, proposed by R. Turner, seconded by R. Pemble. T. Freeburn, proposed by R. Hamilton, seconded by V. B. Stockwell. S. W. Hills, proposed by J. L. Niven, seconded by J. Kent. P. Hornby, proposed by W. Anderson, seconded by T. Isted. T. Isted, proposed by R. Pemble, seconded by D. Dickson. J. Niven, proposed by F. Gardiner, seconded by A. Hawkridge. R. Pemble, proposed by T. Isted, seconded by D. Cartwright. L. Sexton, proposed by A. Gregson, seconded by J. Nash.

NOTE. By virtue of previous service to the Association, Messrs. E. P. Horne, B.E.M. and S. P. Johnson are ex-officio members of Central Council (see Rule 7.2). The post of general secretary and Association treasurer are Central Council appointments and take effect from each October meeting of Central Council following the Annual General Meeting.

Auditor. J. H. Foster then proposed and J. L. Niven seconded that Mr. George Byfield, the present auditor, be re-elected for the ensuing year. This was carried. His duty will be to audit both Association General and Benevolent Accounts.

The agenda then dealt with a matter concerning membership of the Association and the distribution of the Newsletter. It concerned a proposal from Central Council for an amendment to both sections of Rule 9 in the Constitution, brought about largely by an unnecessary work load on the general secretary which also had a high cost factor. It being obligatory at present for the general secretary to notify defaulters who had not paid subscriptions in writing before action could be taken in due time to erase their names from membership and/or from receiving the Newsletter.

The general secretary read out the present rules in this respect and reported that some 127 letters were due to go out to members with the December Newsletter. He made it clear however that the proposal would not apply to those who for any genuine reason which was given to him or where financial regulations made it difficult and/or impossible to comply. In such cases the Newsletter would continue to be dispatched.

A number of questions arose, including one to the effect that this "threat" had already appeared in the Newsletter. The general secretary felt however that the defaulters be given one last chance.

The proposal was amendment to Rule 9(a) that any members who are not life members whose annual subscriptions remain unpaid after 1st September in any year without recourse to reminders being sent, shall have their membership terminated.

The proposed amendment to Rule 9(b) that all members whose annual Newsletter levy remains unpaid after 1st September in any year without recourse to reminders being sent, shall have their names taken from the Newsletter mailing list.

This proposal having come from Central Council was then seconded by R. Turner and was approved by those present at the meeting.

REPORTS OF DELEGATES AND BRANCHES

Branch

Scottish
Yorkshire
Merseyside
East Midlands
Midlands
South Midlands
East Anglian

Report given by

C. Kennedy (Chairman)
R. Saxon (Chairman/Secretary)
A. Gregson (Secretary)
J. Chettle (Treasurer)
F. Gardiner (Chairman)
J. Foster (Chairman)
C. Brown (Secretary)

Branch

Southern and Western Counties
South Eastern Counties
London

Report given by

B. Henwood (Acting secretary)
M. Hill (Secretary)
W. Anderson (Secretary)

The meeting, at which some 58 members were present as having signed the attendance register, was closed at 4.45 p.m.

ANNUAL REUNION DINNER – LONDON 1990

The 45th Annual Reunion Dinner took place at the Westminster Conference Centre, Cathedral Close, London SW1 on Saturday, 6th October, 1990 and the number who attended was 135 which is up on last year. After the Loyal Toast and a Toast to Absent Friends, the important Toast to the Guests was given by the general secretary, J. H. Foster, Esq. The response to this toast was given by the Guest of Honour, Sir Peter Imbert, Q.P.M., The Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis. His address was both witty and rivetting and was very well received by everyone present to the point of giving a standing ovation.

Those on the top table included: The Revd. Lawrence Beeby, Association chaplain; E. P. Horne, B.E.M.; J. H. Foster, general secretary; Sir Peter Imbert, Q.P.M., Guest of Honour; T. J. Shand, Association chairman; Sir Richard Catling, C.M.G., O.B.E., K.P.M., vice-president; Lt.-Col. R. Wingate Charlton, O.B.E., D.L. (patron); S. P. Johnson, Association treasurer; Major J. A. S. Adolph, M.C.; L. T. Seaton, vice-chairman. The formal proceedings came to an end when T. J. Shand, Esq. led us in singing The Holy City. This was accompanied by Mrs. Josephine Harvey on what can only be described as some sort of electric keyboard device. (See note below – Ed.)

The ladies were then admitted and informal events took off from that point. There was a raffle.

Note concerning the above. Last year to our chagrin, Mrs. Josephine Harvey turned up to discover that there was no piano for her to accompany Terry Shand in singing The Holy City. We all felt let down and were considerably embarrassed but hoped Mrs. Harvey would forgive us. There was an enquiry as to what happened and this year special care was made to secure a pianoforte for the occasion. Again Mrs. Harvey turned up to discover the Conference Centre management had supplied an electric keyboard instrument and not a piano. None of the staff knew for certain how it would work or sound. Again we were embarrassed and doubly so, because the entire rendering of The Holy City was being sound recorded for the B.B.C. for eventual use in a television documentary. We hope these things do not go in threes. We hope Mrs. Harvey will come again and we hope the B.B.C. documentary does not let down the usual high standard we give to rendering this adopted anthem, when we are all together.

ANNUAL CENOTAPH PARADE AND SERVICE

LONDON 1990

It was a wonderful sunny day in Whitehall when members of the Palestine Police Old Comrades' Association marched to the Cenotaph in what was its 39th Memorial Parade on Sunday, 7th October, 1990. Altogether 220 were on parade either as marchers or non marchers. The band of the Middlesex Yeomanry Association played light music while the Parade Commander, S. P. Johnson, Esq., supervised the "Fall in" proceedings. Three companies lined up for inspection and the inspecting officers were: Sir Richard Catling, C.M.G., O.B.E., K.P.M., Major J. A. S. Adolph, M.C. and E. P. Horne, B.E.M. The wreath bearers were Messrs. P. R. Gill and J. C. Thompson of East Anglian Branch.

The column arrived at the Cenotaph in due form and the last company had just come to the halt when Big Ben sounded the stroke of 11.00. The wreath was then laid with due ceremony by Sir Richard Catling, vice-president of the Association. The Last Post was sounded and there followed one minute's silence. Then there was a short service conducted by The Revd. L. Beeby, the Association chaplain, in the course of which Reveille was sounded by the bugler. The column then marched off to the dismissal point in King Charles Street which was at 11.15 a.m. approximately. Non marchers who had fallen in on the south side of the Cenotaph were under the command of T. Isted, Esq.

Whitehall was then restored to the citizens of London, or at least its visitors. The crowd was quite numerous and the presence of the B.B.C. camera team was not in the least intrusive upon the thoughts and prayers of those in the ranks. Members had come from all corners of the United Kingdom, from the Channel Islands, from Canada, from Australia, the Irish Republic and indeed from other quarters. Each old comrade came to pay his respect for those left behind in Palestine, whose ghosts were surely present, whose memory is not forgotten. We shall remember them.

THE CIRCUMNAVIGATORS

We refer to a forthcoming event of historic importance to many members of the Association, or at least many distant branches, in that the general secretary, John Foster and his wife, Dorothy, will be wearing the mantle of roving ambassadors, a self-imposed task but one in which many may get pleasure and a feeling of not being too cut off and not too far out of reach from the main core of Association activity.

The couple plan to inspect some distant police posts, not normally in range of former Inspectors General and to contact and spend a little conviviality with as many P.P. as possible. We suspect those due to receive attention have already been informed and arrangements are already made. For those in distant lands who would wish to know whether they are on a near miss or even a collision course with the schedule we publish the following itinerary. Leave London

Heathrow 10th February, 1991, call Bangkok 11th, depart 17th. Singapore, call 17th, depart 24th. Perth, W.A., 24th February, depart 6th March. Adelaide, 6th March, probable departure 17th. Melbourne, probable arrival 17th, probable departure 28th. Canberra, probable arrival 28th, probable departure 1st April. Sydney, probable arrival 1st April, depart 11th. Cairns, 11th-14th. Brisbane, 15th April to 9th May (following a coach tour 14th-25th). Auckland, 9th and coach tour both islands 9th-23rd to terminate Christchurch, 23rd then depart 27th. Auckland second time, 27th May to 3rd June. Sydney second time, airport only, 3rd. Honolulu, airport only, 3rd. Kauai, 3rd-12th. Honolulu, 12th and 13th. San Francisco, 13th-20th. Orlando, airport only, 20th. Fort Lauderdale, 20th-28th. Tampa, airport only, 28th. Bermuda, 28th June to 4th July. Leave 4th July. London, Gatwick, 5th July. In Bangkok, their excellencies will be staying at the Mandarin, Rama IV Road; Cairns at Cairns Colonial Club; Kauai at Islander on the Beach and at Bermuda, Ariel Sands Beach Club. It is to be hoped that all station and post commanders will have anything that does not actually move suitably whitewashed. Knowing the Fosters, we doubt they want red carpets but some cool beer might not go amiss. From the U.K. and, of course, Central Council, we wish them a good trip. For all those below the horizon with whom they come into contact, may you have a pleasant reunion.

hp

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HOME NOTES

The general interest as to who is actually the youngest member of this association, and for that matter who was the youngest member of the Force, has now entered the stage of being a spirited enquiry which may roll on for some time to come. Perhaps there should be some kind of reward for the winner. Avid readers of these pages will recall that in the last issue – page 13 to be precise – C. F. (Charlie) Harris of 95 Bordars Road, Hanwell, London W7 1AL made such a claim for himself. Sadly Charlie has since died but in the same issue D. A. (David) Turner of 25 Mount Drive, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire PE13 2BG, also put his name up for consideration as being a possible claimant for this title. All we can add is that this subject has taken off, as it were, and looks like becoming a really interesting contest.

Leo Corcoran is but 63, he tells us, although we do not have his actual date of birth, which might turn out to be crucial. It would appear that Leo was born about 1927 so that he must be some sort of contender. His address, by the way, is 10 Milford Grove, Offerton Fold, Stockport, Cheshire SK2 5TN. Then there is Jack W. Pearson, who is a really strong contender and he tells us that he was born on 7th September, 1929. Jack lives at 105 Yelverton Road, Coventry, West Midlands CV6 4AG and from the energy he expended at the South Midlands Branch dinner-dance in October he seems to be some sort of Peter Pan which gives him a marginal advantage over the rest. Are there any more? Yes, because Yorkshire Branch have entered a strong challenger and we are reminded by the branch secretary that Y. E. (Eddie) Garbutt is now but 62 at time of going to press and his birthday is 12th June, 1928. Also we should mention that J. A. (John) Edwards, former 2137 of 50 Cumberland Drive, Bexleyheath, Kent DH7 5LB and born on 8th August, 1925 is fielded from South Eastern Counties Branch as a challenger, although we must here point out that 1925 is not 1929 so that seems to be that. Are there yet others to declare themselves? Perhaps branches should joust for a winner. From all the above, one thing is quite clear. Anyone born after 7th September, 1929 or in other words anyone born after Jack Pearson, should submit his claim on the standard Form P67 (see Force Standing Order 403(i) regarding rewards). The details will be examined by a panel of sages and some sort of winner declared.

Finally for the moment there is a letter from Arthur Kanis, Calle Avenc I, 46760 La Drove – Barx, Valencia, Spain. Arthur tells us he was born 28th March, 1929 which is almost a near miss. His joining date is 21st April, 1947. He must have been about 17 years and say three months when he joined, which makes him a pretty powerful contender for something or other. Arthur's short time in the Force was at Central Police Station, Jerusalem. A place with plenty going on.

Those who follow the fortunes of the Imperial War Museum might be interested in an appeal that comes from the pen of Mr. John Solway, honorary assistant secretary, who has asked this association to circulate information about The Friends of the Imperial War Museum. "The Friends" were recently formed, he points out, under the gracious patronage of H.M. Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother, with the object of supporting the museum, giving publicity to its many outstanding displays and in particular to its out stations such as H.M.S. Belfast, the Cabinet War Rooms and Duxford Airfield. This is the museum that

will take many of the photographs in our possession, particularly those of the last 12 years of the Force – say 1936-48. Anyone interested in making donations should send them to The Friends, c/o Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HZ or if you wish to join The Friends, then apply to the same address. In any case it's a fine place to take the grandchildren if not too young. It's a good place for Dad and a chap can get a decent cup of tea there too.

E. J. (Ernie) Nicklin, one time 595 in Palestine, has good detective qualities still retained and we are glad of it. In Newsletter 157 (December 1989) we published on page 21 a picture entitled "Two Good Chaps" and at the time we in the editor's den had no idea who they were. Ernie has come up with just the sort of answer that makes us smile with sheer joy. That figure on the right is former A.S.P. Sidney Norman Pamment, a 1938 man and now living in South Africa. The figure on the left is Head Constable Maul. It is thought the picture was taken at the Carmelite Billet, Haifa. (Anyone recall the road this was situated? – Ed.) Ernie goes on to say that H/Const. Maul took him on his first foot patrol in Haifa and later he did duty at HaDar HaCarmel, Central and Western Police Stations. Stan Knott (sadly now deceased) was his driver when doing mobile duties. But then Ernie was transferred to L.O.P. in Tel Aviv. Altogether a useful letter for which we offer the greatest accolade it is within our power to give, simply "thanks".

It was nice to have a letter from J. R. (John) Fitzgerald, son of Michael Fitzgerald who has gone down in Palestine Police folklore as "One of our greats". John lives at 18 Huxley Close, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK10 3DG. His letter was tinged with sadness because he really wrote to inform us of the death of his dear mother, Margaret. (See Obituary Notices – Ed.) John was born in Nablus in 1935, just as the ructions were starting and he actually says in his letter "I have a strong tie to the area". We do not doubt it for a moment. Most of us who served in Nablus, although not born there, have very strong ties with the whole of Samaria. He has a cine film of his parents together at Lord Caradon's wedding and now that he has also departed from this world, he feels a double sadness. He can be assured that his father was held in the highest esteem by all Arabs, Britons and Jews who served under him, both in the Palestine gendarmerie and the police.

In the last issue on page 22, we published a picture of a High Commissioner's inspection at the depot. There was some speculation as to the identity of the aide-de-camp. This produced some interesting responses and all agree the figure in full Highland garb was Harry Cumming-Bruce, later to become the Lord Thurlow and his regiment was the Seaforth Highlanders. Lady Aldington pipped the rest to the post (no pun intended) with a prompt and welcome letter and who should know better than she, formerly Araminta MacMichael, daughter of the succeeding High Commissioner, Sir Harold, a former patron of this association and much loved and respected by all members of the Force. We thank Lady Aldington and the rest of you for completing a gap in our storehouse of memorabilia, including the letter from Mrs. W. A. Parker, widow of the late Bishop Parker, of Telford, Shropshire.

The general secretary had a nice letter from Gerald Chapman of 641 Dominion Road, Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada L2A 5M4. While the G.S. and Mrs. G.S. were in Canada recently, they met Gerald and his wife. Gerald reports

that Alan Guest, another Canadian, is recently returned from a visit to England, Scotland and Ireland. He also enclosed what he himself described as Chapman's meanderings, a sort of curriculum vitae from 1946 when he arrived in Palestine as B/Const. 3494, then Malaya and a lifetime of useful employment on both sides of the Atlantic thereafter. By and large it seems to us, that ex-Palestine Policemen are a useful lot, whatever calling they take up after leaving the force. Could it be something to do with the Palestine experience in general or Scopus and Jenin in particular? That fine chap, former B/Const. 288 and later A.S.P., Jimmy Stafford might prove hard to get for those trying to seek him out. He lived for many years in South Africa but then took up residence at 57 Rylands Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent TN24 9LJ. Recently he notified us that he would be returning to South Africa and gave an address in Cape Town. Unfortunately this move has fallen through and he is obliged to remain in the U.K. (for the moment). We suggest Jimmy Stafford "watchers" should be prepared to discover that letters have been forwarded on to "wherever" until poor Jimmy has got himself settled. We feel sorry for the time, expense and worry that is attached to disappointing moves of this sort. Very stressful indeed.

Our first list of "Heard from" people includes a letter recording a change of address from John (Spencer) Tracey now of 12 Haynes Close, Thorne, Doncaster, South Yorkshire DN8 5HR. (The office change of address will be notified in a future issue, although he is there now – Ed.) Hugh Johnstone-Scott of Apartado, 29120 Alhaurin le Grande, Malaga, Spain, who was enquiring after Jimmy Stafford. Fred Canter of Moorswood Cottage, Herons Ghyll, Uckfield, Sussex TN22 4OB and Mrs. Joyce Stewart, 95 Semley House, Semley Place, London SW1W 9QL of whom it is nice to see at our functions again after the sad loss of her husband, George.

Every now and then we get hold of a bit of memorabilia that we do not really know what to do with, other than treasure it and place it in store. We have in mind a cricket score card for the important match scheduled for 25th and 26th August, 1945 between the Palestine Police and the Army. For this we are indebted to Harry Hartley of 67 Fountain Drive, Roberttown, Liversedge, West Yorkshire WF15 7PY, who submitted it as long ago as December 1987. From the Newsletter point of view it has lain in the long term pending tray ever since. As a matter of fact this score card has been "on" and "off" the boil largely because we had to explore the possibility of reproducing it in its entirety but now know this cannot be done. It remains too interesting to ignore however and so now we produce some of its constituent parts.

On that eventful day (25th August), the Force XI consisted of B/Sgt. F. N. Spelman (wicket-keeper), B/Const. E. Procter, B/Const. C. G. Reeves, A.S.P. S. G. Pierce, D.S.P. C. A. R. Lawrence (captain), B/Const. V. H. D. Cannings, A.S.P. P. E. S. Bowerbank, B/Const. S. G. Drage, B/Const. D. F. Robinson and B/Const. E. J. Price. The Army had a formidable side including Giles, formerly of Nottinghamshire and Joseph, formerly of Glamorgan. However, the Police put on pressure from the start and the Army were all out for 93 at first innings. This was answered by the Force side with 183, giving a clear advantage of 90 in front. The Army's second innings produced 119, which meant the Force could coast along for the 29 runs required to win. This sort of thing is not just a proud retrospect of our cricket prowess because one is always left to ponder upon the

personalities that made it all possible. Unhappily we have but recently lost Claude Lawrence, surely one of our "greats" if ever there was one. But even those who served in the Force who had never met members of our Force XI came to know about them from Jerusalem Post reports or the Force magazine and by word of mouth in the canteens and messes. We must thank Harry Hartley for bringing some of it back to mind.

Colin Imray seems to happily go on for ever, we are glad to say and ought to be given the status of an honoured doyen. He lives at 35 Greenways, Haywards Heath, Sussex RH16 2DT. Colin has a valuable memory for details of things that took place in the early and mid 1930s in Palestine and in consequence he was kind enough to write about his recollection of the late Flight Lieutenant R. P. Stevens, D.S.O., D.F.C. and bar, a former Palestine Policeman who was later killed in the war, flying a Hurricane over the Low Countries. We have mentioned Stevens before and so Colin's letter became a valuable source of additional information for us to pass on to the Royal Air Force researcher and archivist who sought to know more about a man who is credited with shooting down 14 enemy aircraft. Colin stated that he remembered Stevens arriving at the Depot some time in June 1932 and that he would have been given a number around 1120. He was quite right as we have since been able to establish he was allotted the number 1119. A nice, meaty letter for which we thank Colin about whom we hope to see at our southern functions and the Cenotaph for many years to come.

More people we have heard from recently include: D. C. M. (David) Todd, 157 Everton Road, Hordle, Hampshire SO41 0HB, former B/Const. 2786 in Palestine (March 1947 then on to serve in Malaya); Aubrey and Dorothy Nye, Broom Knoll, Judith Avenue, Knodishall, Saxmundham, Suffolk (who called for coffee and chat); Maurice Hatch, 14 Windsor Court, King George V Road, Amersham, Buckinghamshire HP6 5AN, who enclosed some excellent reward and curfew notices for our collection – we are really most grateful for this sort of thing. Also we have heard from Peter Dodds, P.O.B. 777, Mbabane, Swaziland (he is chairman/secretary/treasurer and only member of the Swaziland Branch).

For those who are constantly amazed at the long arm of coincidence then try this for size. W. (Bill) Young moved from 20 Milesmere, Two Mile Ash, Milton Keynes, Berkshire MK3 6BU to Scotland. A Mrs. M. E. Fussell, who is a new Donor Member of this association (See New Donor Members in this issue – Ed.), now lives at 20 Milesmere, Two Mile Ash, Milton Keynes, etc. Before we move house, perhaps we should study the tea leaves. Leo A. Corcoran of 10 Milford Grove, Offerton Fold, Stockport, Cheshire SK2 5TN and former B/Const. 4057 at that, wrote to say that he is in the pink. "Fit as a flea" is what he actually stated and seems to be successful in the world of marketing, in the sense that he is getting his own College of Enterprise Ltd. off the ground. In short he seeks out people's skills which with initiative and energy he helps to develop. Details from Leo direct please. The matters he covers are very diverse and too long for us to go into detail but we wish him well and have the feeling he has discovered an area not properly covered to date. The press cuttings enclosed with his letter certainly indicate this.

Now back to coincidence again. This time it concerns Charlie Kennedy, chairman of Scottish Branch, who can be run to ground at West Lodge, Clayton,

St. Andrews, Fife KY16 9YE, who happened to take a flight from Hong Kong back to the U.K. quite recently. Quite a normal thing to do if one lives in the U.K. and happen to be in Hong Kong. Next to him was a lady who turned out to be Mrs. Joyce Wilson, widow of the late Albert (Tug) Wilson, one-time B/Sergeant 1599 (4th October 1938 to 14th May 1948). Joyce lives at 3 Huish Gardens, Yeovil, Somerset BA20 1BT and she wrote to say how delighted she is that Charlie talked her into rejoining our great family. She goes on to say that she spent some years in Palestine with Albert and their last four years were in Tiberias. She would like to hear news from anyone who remembers her. It just goes to show who one might be sitting next to in an aeroplane.

There are the usual items of errata scattered in this issue and it is time to insert one at this point. On page 18 of Newsletter 159, in the Home Notes section, we inserted the agreeable name of Bill Hopley. The moment it was done, we knew it was the wrong name but then failed to correct it. It should have been Ted Kelsall, of course. Just as agreeable to us but at least it would have been correct. We apologise of course and thank Bill for his letter, all the way from P.O. Box 24816, Nairobi. We wish him well.

We all enjoyed a letter from Arthur Bernard (Jock) Lea, former 1501, who now lives at 21 Grange Road, Barnton, Northwich, Cheshire CW8 4PS. Jock Lea turned up at the funeral of his old friend and squad mate Bill Makinson (See Short Notices of Death – Ed.) and although a lapsee, he has announced his intention of rejoining us. Anyway his letter is a gem and reveals that he was awarded the Colonial Police Medal in June 1948 and one of the last members of the Force to be honoured in this way. He was on the Buckingham Palace Stand Down Parade. Most of his service was in Haifa at Central, Eastern, Hadar Hacarmel, etc. Welcome back, Jock.

As usual there are far too many letters this quarter to stand hope of all of them getting mentioned. A sort of lottery has pulled out about 20 or so and we hope the writers will not feel disgraced, effaced or forgotten. A purely management decision. But we shall now thank A. F. (Terry) Burke of 7 La Vallette Court, Ras il Qawra, Malta, G.C. for his useful air letter dated as long ago as 29th May, which had some useful names and a Force number or two that has helped us elsewhere. Umberto Pernetta watchers keep us informed of our mid-European connection. For example, Trevor Kirby of 24 Pinebeach Court, 4 Beach Road, Poole, Dorset BH13 7BX went and stayed with Umberto in early June 1990. He was rewarded with tales of Army and Palestine Police days, as only Umberto can recall and, for that matter, only Umberto can relate. Shan Wilson of Orchard Close, Bosnieves, Withiel, Nr. Bodmin, Cornwall PL30 5NQ also keeps us informed of correspondence he has with the house of Pernetta and his latest letter tells us that former B/Const. Pernetta is on holiday in Italy. This old comrade with an interesting Italian name, who served in a Scottish regiment of the British Army and the Palestine Police, who lives in Germany has an international distinction that we all ought to envy. Moreover he is rushing towards his 80th year, we are told. He has an energy that puts some others to shame.

Ted Batt of Buckingham Villa, Buckingham Close, Ryde, Isle of Wight PO33 2DW is another who wrote as long ago as last May. He enclosed a coloured slide which ought to be reproduced in the Newsletter but the photograph queue is

still quite long. Ted Batt was former 867 in Palestine and he travelled out on the former Orient liner Ormonde. (I cruised in this ship with my parents in 1935 – Ed. No one wants to know that, so get on with it – Mrs. Ed.) One of those in Ted's party was John Bevan (867) and the two have been friends ever since. We will try, repeat try, and get it in the next issue. We owe lots of letters as a matter of fact and although this editor will be away on a short holiday, once this lot is off his shoulders. The remainder of the month of November is set aside to reply to as many letters as possible. There are about 50 in the "awaits action" department. You are not forgotten, so much as left to simmer on the back burner. This is something that cannot be helped.

South Africa has produced two letters that require mentioning at least. The first is from Peter Lee of 74 Athlone Towers, Lower Bridge Road, Durban North, Natal 4051, R.S.A. His state of health is not all that good but old friends do think about him and rarely does a month go by for his name being mentioned at the editor's desk. The other is from G. D. (Paddy) Patterson who lives at P.O. Box 70375, Bryanston, Johannesburg 2021. We obviously owe him an apology but have not yet unravelled what happened this end. Perhaps if he will bear with us until the next issue we can straighten things out. Suffice it to say that Paddy might like to know this editor was within a couple of hundred yards of Sa Sa Post in September last. It's still there. There followed a picnic lunch in the shadow of Nebi Yusha Post. There were many ghosts. In far off New Zealand, we fear that anno Domini has taken its hold on active branch activities in Auckland. Some of our old comrades are not at all active by virtue of medical disablement and frailty. Not just in Auckland either. Letters would be a good idea and even further afield are those on South Island. Peter Platts for a start. How about branches in the U.K. adopting an old comrade in remote parts and just write now and again. We feel sure this would be appreciated. Ted Clegg, P.O. Box 180, Kyrenia, Mersin 10, Turkey is another remote old comrade. You all realise we are talking about northern Cyprus. In a note recently, Ted pointed out that it is still an attractive place but he must sometimes feel a million miles away from the rest of us.

A Lancastrian, former B/Sgt. 1784 Eric Howard, wrote to us last June but we had to omit his letter from the last issue, for the same reason as so many get left out every quarter. Eric lives at 33 The Greenans, Hatton, Preston, Lancashire PR4 5SR by the way and he wrote for two reasons. Firstly to find out if any reader was present at "The battle of Mishmar HaEmek" in early April 1948. If so would they kindly get in touch by telephone and the number to call up is (0772) 614582. Eric is interested in setting down the history of this episode and requires help from anyone who was there. The second reason for writing brings us back to the old business of coincidence again. In mid June, Eric was in an hotel in Estoril, which for those who require more information is in Portugal. While standing for a lift to arrive, he noticed The Tie being worn by another guest. This other guest turned out to be Martin Moore, former 2685 (1946-8). The two likely lads, with their wives, then proceeded to enjoy a super holiday together. Martin lives at 31 Park Avenue, Sandymount, Dublin 4, Irish Republic. (Although late, information passed to general secretary for necessary joining instructions to be sent – Ed.)

Out of Africa came a letter, as they say. In this case the writer was I. G. (Ian) Marshall, former 597 (May 1946 to May 1948). He and his wife, Hazel, live at

Barita Sisal Estate Ltd., P.O. Box 580, Nakuru, Kenya. Ian had great joy to see a picture of Mustashfa Police Station in a recent Newsletter, where he regularly visited Eddie Styles, the B/Const. "I" in 1947. He himself was stationed at Meashearim and this issue of the Newsletter reminded him of such old comrades as Beefy Webb, Reg Warwick, Micky Hills, Jimmy Stewart, Reg Portman, Andy Hathaway, Ron Tyler and Jock Storrer. Well we aim to please and I can point out to Ian that Mustashfa Police Station is still there. The Israeli police use the identical building as a police station. The two lions are still atop the pillars but there is an overlarge neon sign above indicating in three languages the word "POLICE". Nice memory but a pity about the sign.

D. G. (Tashy) Smith, former B/Sgt. 156 lives at 14 Klee Street, Apartment 6, Tel Aviv, Israel but he is having trouble with his Newsletter deliveries. The G.S. has tried to straighten out any hiccup in this department and we hope he is successful. Taffy tells us he is now 90 and that deserves congratulations all round.

Bill Stevens (Donor Member) wrote from 20 St. Nicholas Drive, Feltwell, Thetford, Norfolk IP26 4DW and we appreciate his letter. This former regular soldier, Household Cavalry (Life Guards and corporal major at that) is as keen about this association as many of us. John Lendon of 14 Grove Close, Ewart Road Estate, Brockley Rose, Forest Hill, London SE23 wrote to say that once lived at St. Keyne, Liskeard, Cornwall. He came across the address of former B/M/Const. 1231 D. W. Jones who lives at the same address in St. Keyne, as John lived in the years 1917-8. Both being former Palestine Policemen of course. Here we go again with this coincidence business. It's getting quite erie round here.

A Mr. T. Morrison of 33a Castle Street, Lisburn, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland BT27 4SP is a collector of police insignia and hopes to extend into Palestine Police, badges, insignia, etc. of which there is quite a wide variation. He asks if any member can help. Reasonable prices paid. Those who remember A. A. (Arthur) Henry in Nablus District Office in 1942 and 1943 and then wondered what happened to him, will find he has left Essex, from whence we believed he once dwelled and can now be found in Hampshire. He served Superintendent R. O. Cafferata faithfully as B/Const. clerk as well. Nice to think he has turned up – 21 Broad Lane, Lymington, Hampshire SO41 should find him. Let's hope he joins the Association.

John Grieve of Dragon Villa, 12 Abbotsford Terrace, Darnick, Melrose, Borders TD6 9AD wrote back in July in reference to Harry Dobson's memories of Buck Garland (Newsletter 159, June 1990, page 18). John has similar fond memories of the time he and Buck served in Malaya together where he soon noticed Buck's impressive knowledge of tropical rain forest – the jungle – its flora and fauna and his enthusiastic sharing of knowledge with John enabled him to later lead his own jungle squad into the search of Communist terrorists. Buck could also recite at length from Kipling and John remembers one line that could apply to Buck himself . . . "He trod the ling like a buck in spring".

**PALESTINE POLICE
OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATION**

Derby Sweepstakes 1991

★ **FIRST PRIZE £200.00** ★

2nd prize £100.00 3rd prize £50.00

4th prize £25.00

All runners £10.00 each.

Non-runners £5.00 each. Near misses £2.00 each.

Draw will take place on Sunday, 26th May, 1991

— TICKETS TWENTY PENCE EACH —

Promoter: S. P. Johnson, 19 The Crest, Leigh on Sea, Essex SS9 5NJ
Reg. under Lotteries and Amusements Act, 1976, with Southend on Sea C.

Sweepstake tickets are available from U.K. branch secretaries or direct from Ron Pemble. We are seeking buyers and/or sellers of tickets to help boost the Benevolent and branch funds. At the same time, of course, give some purchasers the chance of winning one (or more) of the prizes in the range £200.00 to £2.00.

Cash, counterfoils and unsold tickets should be returned to:

R. W. H. Pemble
2a Ulley Road
Kennington
Ashford
Kent
TN24 9HT

as soon as possible and in any case by 23rd May 1991.

LONDON BRANCH

The branch meets on the first Saturday of every month at The Cardinal, "Headquarters", Francis Street, London SW1 at 8.00 p.m. The presence of the ladies is positively encouraged.

Chairman Emeritus: T. J. Shand, Esq.

Chairman: L. Sexton, 42 Barbara Brosnan Court, 46 Grove End Road, St. John's Wood, London NW8 9NP. Tel: 071-289 0041.

Vice-chairman: T. Isted, Flat 6, 34 Erskine Road, Walthamstow, London E17 6RZ. Tel: 081-520 5914.

Secretary: W. Anderson, 19 Priestly Road, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 2LL. Tel: 081-648 8324.

Treasurer: T. Freeburn, 24 Dale View Avenue, Chingford, London E4 6PL. Tel: 081-524 2081.

Committee: Messrs. R. Hamilton, P. O'Boyle, L. Ratcliffe and C. Wood.

★

Our 4th August meeting was very well attended despite holiday time and heat. Many enquiries were made as to when our present secretary (Bill Anderson) was coming back and I (Paddy O'Boyle – acting secretary) felt a bit self conscious when I drew two winning numbers in the evening's raffle. A visitor from Scotland was present. He was Mr. Arthur Hewitt from Midrow Maryton, Angus and he is starting a project on Palestine and was anxious to interview members of the police force and the administration in those distant days. Also present that evening were Len and Mary Sexton and a party including friends Ena Francois, Des Lewis, Don Williams, Laurie and Eileen Ratcliffe, Arthur and Joan Dawson and Muriel, Robbie Stewart, Bill Shearman, John Gibbons and Terry Shand, Micky Hills and Gerry Keown. We were all pleased to hear that Audrey Stanners is making good progress after a long stay in hospital. Her presence has been greatly missed in recent months.

Most of our regulars attended the September meeting (1st) and we enjoyed the visit of our two Chelsea Pensioners, namely Paddy Bond and Jock Weir, both of whom had permission to join the Cenotaph Parade later in the year. (And were there, too – Ed.) Stan and Margaret Baxendale were there as well as Don and Eileen Williams, Harry Jervis, Derek Jackson plus some visitors from more distant parts. Gerald Green (Gloucestershire), Don Miles (Auckland, New Zealand). We were pleased to see Fred Pays and Mrs. Sylvia Smith, widow of the late G. Smith once of Port and Marine, Haifa.

P.O'B.

Note One. The editor wishes to thank Paddy O'Boyle for close co-operation with the news desk in the absence of the branch secretary. Force Orders now shows that W. (Bill) Anderson is posted back to that high office and Paddy has stood down.

Note Two. There follows by way of an erratum from the last issue, the following correction to all that was printed at the top of page 25 in the London Branch news in the last issue. It concerns the item about Alvyn Edgington, whose name was spelled wrongly for a start. Alvyn is an old friend of this Association and is anxious that the entire entry be corrected. To this end, we not only agree that it should but have agreed to insert her amended version and so here it is:-

ERRATUM

Present at the July meeting at the Cardinal, Norah Edgington and her daughter, Alvyn, introduced Ken Marple and his wife, Hazel. Norah visited the Guards Museum with Nancy Haubner and nearly fell over Ken, who works there. Nancy had on her P.P. badge and consequently presented it to Ken on learning he was an ex-P.P. Incidentally, Ken is a rejoining member.

Because the original entry with which we were supplied makes things look very different from what they really are, Alvyn wishes it to be pointed out that she is not and never will be a Chelsea Pensioner nor did she serve in the P.M.F. and certainly does not work in the Guards Museum. She is a bint.

We thank her for correcting us on all this and by way of poor defence, can only say that we can only print what we receive from divers sources but are always happy to make corrections when they are due.

Editor

LONDON BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

SATURDAY, 23RD FEBRUARY, 1991

THE VICTORY SERVICES CLUB

Seymour Street, Marble Arch, London W2

Bar open 6.30 p.m.

Dress Informal

Dinner 7.30 p.m.

Tickets £14.00

Tickets and hotel advice through

Laurie Ratcliffe, 18 Ashdon Road, Bushey, Herts. WD2 2HX

Telephone: (0923) 35890

Book early to avoid disappointment

SOUTH EASTERN COUNTIES BRANCH

Chairman: W. R. (Bill) Church, 1 Wimbourne Avenue, Redhill, Surrey RH1 5AQ. Tel: (0737) 765488.

Vice-chairman: M. H. (Maurice) Hill, 7 Selhurst Close, East Preston, West Sussex BN16 2SR. Tel: (0903) 776661.

Secretary: W. H. M. (Jimmy) James, 20 Church Street, Wye, Ashford, Kent TN25 5BJ. Tel: (0233) 812358.

Treasurer: M. W. (Mike) Brackston, 5 Browns Lane, Storrington, West Sussex RH20 4LG. Tel: (0903) 744502.

Committee: Messrs. E. S. C. Lillywhite, J. L. Niven, R. W. H. Pemble, R. G. Turner and E. H. Weekes.



The September luncheon at the Smugglers Roost, Rustington had to be cancelled because of lack of support. A few applicants were disappointed but it must be pointed out that the function room cannot be reserved and waitresses engaged unless sufficient numbers are guaranteed. On future occasions please telephone Albert Hawkrige in good time (0903) 723846. This is a classic example of the need to give plenty of notice well in advance, so that those who have the job of planning can actually get on with the job. The next luncheon will hopefully take place on Sunday, 9th December. Perhaps rather late notification for this edition.

The Annual Dinner-Dance at The Coniston Hotel, Sittingbourne was a resounding success. Ron Pemble was a bit apprehensive by the lateness of bookings but Cabby Walter with his family group of 10 brought up the numbers and 56 attended, including special guests Major-General Viscount and Lady Monkton of Benchley, and a most welcome contingent from Central Council in the persons of John and Dorothy Foster, S. P. (Sidney) Johnson, S. W. (Micky) Hills and Tom Isted. Topper Brown from Norwich set the stage with a pre-prandial party in his hotel room. An excellent dinner followed and spirited dancing until midnight. The same venue has been booked by popular acclaim for 1991, albeit a fortnight earlier and will take place on 7th/8th September. Twenty-eight remained for Sunday luncheon.

There will be a Kent Winter Luncheon at the County Hotel, Ashford on Sunday, 3rd February, 1991, so come all "Ye men of Kent and Kentish men" with swains, friends, close family, distant family, hangers on, creditors or whatever. Ron Pemble is a tireless organiser and deserves support. The luncheon will cost £7 per head, by the way, which is extremely good value. The main thing is to book early by telephoning (0233) 637844.

W. H. M. (Jimmy) James will be taking over the branch secretaryship in the New Year, so please take note of the address given in the above heading.

M.H.H.

SOUTHERN AND WESTERN COUNTIES BRANCH

Chairman: J. H. Leggett, Southview, 1 Hamtun Crescent, Totton, Southampton, Hampshire SO4 3PB. Tel: (0703) 863498.

Vice-Chairman: D. L. Long, 3 Sloborough Close, Weymouth, Dorset DT3 5RE. Tel: (0305 81) 3528.

Acting Secretary: B. P. Henwood, 169 Stourvale Road, Southbourne, Bournemouth, Dorset BH6 5HQ. Tel: (0202) 431172.

Treasurer: T. R. Walker, 7 Moonrakers Way, Highcliffe, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 4RD. Tel: (0425) 276761.

Minutes Secretary: Miss A. Shand, Linford Farm House, Linford, Ringwood, Hampshire BH24 3HX. Tel: (0425) 472770.

Committee: Messrs. E. DeVal C.P.M., H. J. Jensen, A. Metcalfe, J. W. E. Tait and G. W. Vaughan.



In the last issue we announced the house party cum garden party cum hufli that was scheduled to take place at the home of Katha and Ann Shand, at Linford Farm House in the heart of the New Forest. The day set for this event was Saturday, 2nd September and now that it is all over, we can but describe it as a great success, as all hufliis at the Shand establishment have proved to be in the past. The regular Newsletter scribe was absent overseas but at risk of having left a few off from the list of those who were there, the undermentioned signed the attendance sheet and so must be construed as having been on parade. They were: B. P. (Bunny) and Betty Henwood, Johnny and Lorna Leggett (branch chairman), Bill and Nina Tait, Alan Metcalfe, Hank and Nina Jensen, Wally and Vera Sendell, Malcolm and Vera Parry, Terry and Judy Shand (Association chairman), Tom Walker, Don and Peggy Long, Bill and Jean Hawkes, Les and Rona Acton, Des and Sylvia Cutbush, Colin Imray, Geoff Owen, Nancy Head, Tom Freeburn (Central Council), Paddy and Jenny Duke and P. T. Conway. So with the two hostesses for the day this makes a complement of 33. There must have been some others, because we are told about 40 attended and they did not get onto the list of signatories. At this point we add a message from Ann Shand herself and this reads:

“Katha and Ann Shand would like to say how very much they appreciated the arrival of 40 happy faces on the 2 September. We are always gratified that so many people travel long distances, carefully balancing dishes of delicious food, and make the day so pleasant for us. Not only do they bring wonderful things to eat (this year the menu ranged from freshly-caught trout, roast chicken, sausage rolls, expertly-grown colourful tomatoes, a delicious display of quiches, fruit flans, trifle, cheese and celery); not only that but they also wash up afterwards and leave behind tins of ham, ice-cream, pots of jam, home-made wine and scrumptuous cakes, all of which save us cooking for quite some time. It was lovely to see you all. Thank you very much indeed for coming, see you first Sunday in September next year.”

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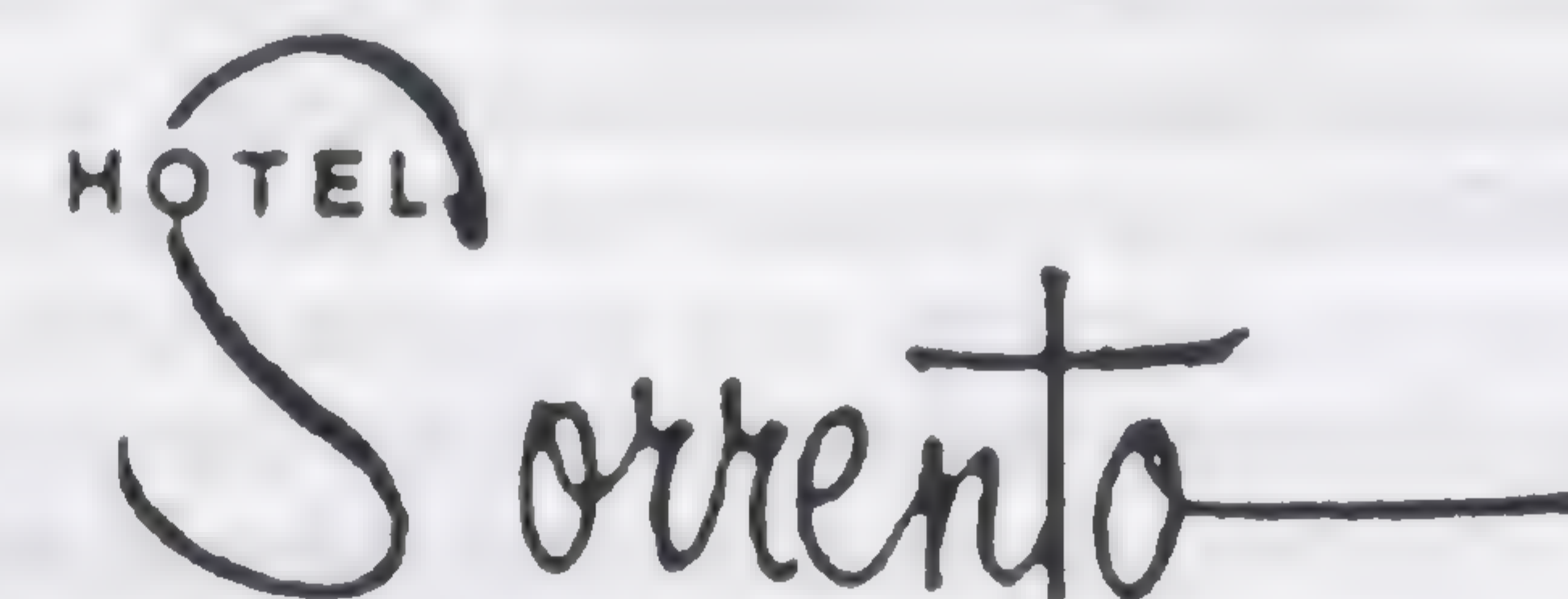
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Small and very comfortable licensed hotel in the centre of town and near the sea. AA and RAC.

Ideal for weekend breaks. Four-night Christmas programme.

One can always live in hopes that this Newsletter will arrive on breakfast tables in time for branch members at least to remind themselves that the branch annual dinner-dance will take place at the Courtlands Hotel, Boscombe Spa Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth on Saturday, 8th December, 1990. We foregather at 6.30 p.m. Book dinner through Bunny Henwood whose address and telephone number are at the head of these notes. It will all be reported in the next issue.

B.P.H.

SOUTH MIDLANDS BRANCH

Chairman: J. H. Foster, 101 Howberry Road, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 4SD.
Tel: 081-954 6904.

Secretary/Treasurer: Lew H. Boffin, 13 Highworth Road, Faringdon, Oxfordshire SN7 7EG. Tel: (0367) 240225.



The August garden party proved a tremendous success. It took place at Beit Boffin, 13 Highworth Road on Sunday, 19th August last and 65 people attended. Many seek to know who these people were, so here are the names of those on parade: George Gray, John Breen, Jack and Kath Nash, Roy and Irene Rodrick, Iris and Alf Burton, Denis and Mrs. Alexander, Gerald Green, Douglas Brain, Don Miles from New Zealand, Ron and Audrey Turner, John and Mrs. Bourne, Carl and Mrs. Rowland-Timms, John and Mrs. Craddock, Gordon and Sylvia Gerrie, John and Dorothy Foster, Bill and Daphne Gibbons, Les and Gladys Povey, Bettie Sandy, Alan Palmer with two lovely daughters, Denis and Mrs. Blackburn, Sid Johnson, Ken and Gwen Cowdrey, Tom and Sylvia Richards from Canada with two friends, Don and Joan Cartwright, Micky Hills, John and Mrs. Minshall, David and Mrs. Wynne, George and Mrs. Evans, Jack and Mrs. Pearson with granddaughter, Frank Jones, Bill and Gladys Coles with friend, Norman and Kay Evans, John Mayne, Terry and Judy Shand, Carol Rawlins. Considering it was such a wet day, the event proved to be most enjoyable and the turn out is beyond praise.

The outcome of the annual dinner-dance at Blunsdon House arranged for Saturday, 27th October will be published in the next issue. But branch members and indeed members of other branches might care to note the following dates. There will be a spring lunch in April 1991 at Blunsdon House and there will also be a repeat garden party at 13 Highworth Road in August as well as the annual dinner-dance on Saturday, 26th October, 1991 (which is the last Saturday in October) again at Blunsdon House. The exact dates of the former events will be given in due course.

L.H.B.

Midlands Branch

42nd ANNUAL DINNER/DANCE

KENILWORTH MOAT HOUSE HOTEL

Chelsford Bridge, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2LN

SATURDAY, 16th MARCH, 1991

7.00 p.m. for 7.25 p.m. Dress Formal

Tickets: £11.50

Book early through Les Faulkes, Secretary

35 Home Farm Crescent, Whitnash, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CU31 2QW.

Telephone: 0926 332814

Book direct to hotel. Telephone Kenilworth (0926) 58331

(Bed/Breakfast £15.00 per person) With English Breakfast

When booking mention P.P.O.C.A.

Inform Branch Secretary if you are attending. Names in block capitals

MIDLANDS BRANCH

Meets quarterly at The Enfield Club, Gough Street, Birmingham on the third Saturday in the months of February, May, August and November.

Chairman: Fred J. Gardiner, 14 Brampton Avenue, Hall Green, West Midlands B28 9LG. Tel: 021-744 2640.

Vice-Chairman: John Wardle, 17 Frederick Neal Street, Eastern Green, Coventry, Warwickshire CU5 7EH. Tel: (0203) 464733.

Secretary: Les G. Faulkes, 35 Home Farm Crescent, Whitnash, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV31 2QW. Tel: (0926) 32814.

Treasurer: Alf Burton, 8 Willow Street, Desford, Leicestershire LE9 9HB. Tel: (04557) 2494.



On Sunday, 10th August, 1990 a meeting was arranged with the kind permission of Fred and Anne Gardiner, at their home and those who attended were: Alan (Pedlar) Palmer from Bristol, George and Irene Shelley, Jack and Peggy Pearson, John and Daphne Wardle (Coventry), Dennis and Varda Gilbert, Fred Wilkins (Solihull), "Hutch" Hutchinson (Stratford-upon-Avon) and Les and Gwen Faulkes (Leamington Spa). We were very pleased to meet and greet Bill Gibbs (Walsall), brother of George Gibbs of Dudley. It was an enjoyable

evening and all members of the oldest branch in the Association give heartfelt thanks to Anne Gardiner for providing such a delightful spread for our consumption.

L.G.F.

EAST ANGLIAN BRANCH

Chairman: G. Dack, C.P.M., 7 Dencora House, Theatre Street, Norwich, Norfolk NR2 1RG. Tel: (0603) 623572.

Secretary/Treasurer: C. A. (Topper) Brown, 11 Briar Lane, Swainsthorpe, Norwich, Norfolk NR14 8PJ. Tel: (0508) 470652.

Committee: Messrs. J. C. (Ras) Thompson, W. (Bill) Segrue and R. W. (Ron) Postle.



Our reunion luncheon took place towards the end of July at the Caistor Hall Country Club at Norwich. It turned out to be a fine, warm weekend in splendid surroundings and amidst great company. What more could one wish? Unfortunately due to holidays and illness, the ranks of the locals were depleted but the quality was there. The weekend really started on the Saturday evening when visitors gathered at "Topper's Taverna" to enjoy a few "noggins" and later 15 "bods" had a late dinner at the Country Club.

On the Sunday, 35 sat down to luncheon. The Loyal Toast was proposed by our local nonagenarian, Bill Brighton, who attended with his two charming daughters, Irene and Barbara. The toast to our guests was responded by Sid Johnson, the Association treasurer. We welcomed Micky Hills and Don Cartwright (both from Central Council), Mrs. Joan Cartwright, Bella Todman, Ron and Audrey Turner from London; Lew and Pam Boffin and Bill and Daphne Gibbons (all from South Midlands branch); Sam and Rae Summerland, Dennis and Ellen Connell and Jack and Helen Chettle together with their daughter Mary and her husband Martin all came from East Midlands branch area. The locals paraded with Dick Cole, Fred and Sylvia Cook, Percy and Ruby Gill, Neville and Stella Naunton, Buck and Doreen Reeves, Bill Segrue, Ras Thompson and yours truly with my wife, Peggy. I take the opportunity of thanking Audrey Turner for donating a beautiful hand-knitted shawl for the raffle and Helen Chettle for selling the tickets.

There will be a branch meeting on 17th March, 1991 (St. Patrick's Day? Ed.) at the Caister Hall Country Club.

C.A.B.

EAST MIDLANDS BRANCH

Chairman: H. G. Elvin, High View, 50 Violet Road, Carlton, Nottingham NG4 3QP. Tel: (0602) 871289.

Vice-Chairman: D. Alexander, Newbold Road, Kirkby-Mallory, Derbyshire LE9 7QG.

Secretary: H. G. Coaten, 6 Newton Avenue, Bingham, Nottinghamshire NG13 8FJ. Tel: (0949) 837907.

Treasurer: J. H. Chettle, 3 Thoresby Road, Bramcote, Nottinghamshire NG9 3EY. Tel: (0602) 255202.

Committee: Messrs A. Boneham and W. Herring.



We start with the sad news that the branch had lost another member and I refer to the death of Stanley Collinge, a Donor Member who resided at Matlock. He will be greatly missed (See Obituary Notices - Ed.).

Recently we held the branch annual general meeting followed by a buffet lunch at which 34 members and their ladies attended. The treasurer revealed that we are keeping our heads above water regarding finances. Our former vice-chairman, W. (Bill) Ridgard, decided to stand down because of other

East Midlands Branch

DINNER-DANCE

THE SWALLOW HOTEL

South Normanton, Derbyshire DE55 2EH

Saturday, 30th March, 1991

7.30 p.m. - 1.00 a.m.

Tickets £11.50

Accommodation at the hotel is £22.00 per person.

Mention P.P.O.C.A. when booking.

Hotel telephone: (0773) 580032

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commitments. We thank Bill for his past services and welcome D. Alexander into the vacant position.

The forthcoming Easter dinner-dance at the Swallow Hotel, South Normanton, Derbyshire is worth plugging again. It was a great success last year. Those attending should first notify me and here I will remind everyone to study my new telephone number, shown above. Secondly contact the hotel on telephone number (0773) 580032. The cost of bed and breakfast will be £22 per head and the cost of dinner will be £11.50. When booking mention the "P.P".

Congratulations are due to all concerned for organising the Cenotaph Parade in London this year. A simply wonderful turn out.

H.G.C.

MERSEYSIDE AND DISTRICT BRANCH

Meets on the first Wednesday of each month at The Sergeants Mess, Liverpool Scottish Regiment, Score Lane, Liverpool 6.

Chairman: L. Adamson, 57 Alden Road, Prescot, Merseyside L34 2SG. Tel: 051-42 67198.

Vice-Chairman: H. White, 171 Bowring Park Avenue, Liverpool L16 2LE. Tel: 051-48 03724.

Secretary: A. R. Gregson, 12 Regent Avenue, Liverpool L14 6UL. Tel: 051-48 92068.

Treasurer: J. M. Thomas, 7 Rimmer Avenue, Liverpool L16 2NE. Tel: 051-48 92101.



Things are very quiet this quarter and details of the branch weekend and Christmas draw at Old Colwyn in December will be published in the next issue. But there is one unusual and in its way major event which must be publicised. On 20th September, 1990 Alf Gregson, the branch secretary was awarded a certificate of merit by the Lord-Lieutenant of Merseyside for his services to the Palestine Police Old Comrades' Association. This certificate is awarded by a committee of ex-service and regimental associations. Members of Merseyside branch and their ladies attended and it all took place in the Navy Club, Liverpool.

A.R.G.

Editor's Note. Not easy to follow that. The award of this certificate is an event which might have gone into the Congratulations Section but it all seems better positioned in these branch notes. A. R. (Alf) Gregson has been a branch secretary for more years than he would care to remember and has always been a leading supporter of the big Association weekend in London, to say nothing of hundreds of miles, perhaps thousands, in travelling around the country so as to support other branch functions. Hearty congratulations are due, well deserved.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN WISDOM FROM THE TREASURER

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

YORKSHIRE BRANCH

Chairman Emeritus: H. J. Keeton, Esq.

Chairman/Secretary/Treasurer: R. Saxon, 46 St. Paul's Road, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire HD5 0EX. Tel: (0484) 428247.

Vice-Chairman: T. E. Garbutt, 393 Apperley Road, Apperley Bridge, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD10 0PU. Tel: (0274) 615628.

Social Secretary: D. Bland, 28 Southwood Road, Thorn, Nr. Doncaster, South Yorkshire DN8 5QS. Tel: (0405) 813242.

Committee: Messrs J. Brown, E. Isherwood and A. Wheelhouse.



Our bi-monthly meeting at the Green Dragon, Emley took place on Saturday, 15th September, 1990 with an attendance of 29. There were many apologies for absence which included Eric and Nancy Isherwood, Bill and Joan McVee, Joe Bairstow, Bill and Ruth Hill, George and Rene Washington, Jack Kerwin, Harry and Cath Hartley, Allan and Marjorie Wheelhouse and Mike and Maria Keeton. We are pleased to report that Eric Isherwood, whose name appeared in the Sick Parade list in the last issue, has survived a successful hip operation and is keeping his fingers crossed that all is now well. Through these pages he wishes to thank all those who sent cards and good wishes.

Bill and Jean Young are on the transfer list and are posted to Scottish branch area, from whence they came. For the present they are staying with their daughter at Dalkeith but hope to move into their new home at Crieff in Perthshire soon.

We are pleased to welcome a new member, H. R. (Ron) Lees, former B/Const. 2423 in Palestine, who lives at 50 Nicholson Road, Healing, Grimsby, Humberside DN37 7NW. We look forward to meeting Ron and his wife, Ann, at some of our future meetings. At time of going to press we are looking forward to the branch fun night scheduled for Saturday, 3rd November and to date have 47 names down for luncheon. Hopefully this will be reported in the next issue. The scene of operations will be the Green Dragon, Emley Moor. The Christmas luncheon is also scheduled for the same venue (Green Dragon). The modest price will be £9.00 per head – now established as the exact price. Previously mooted as £9.50. Please book through Derrick Bland (Tel: (0405) 813242). Finally there will be a meeting, our annual general meeting as a matter of fact, on 19th January, 1991 again at the Green Dragon, Emley Moor at 12 noon. We are trying to get an alternative meeting place in the Tadcaster area but need some ideas for suitable places. If anyone comes up with a worthwhile suggestion, please let me know.

R.S.

SCOTTISH BRANCH

Chairman: C. Kennedy, West Lodge, Clayton, St. Andrews, Fife KY16 9YE. Tel: (0334) 87242.

Secretary/Treasurer: J. M. Lindsay, 2 Lomond Bank, Glenfarg, Perthshire PH12 9PF. Tel: (05773) 382.

Hon. Chaplain to the Branch: The Very Rev. Professor R. Craig, C.B.E., Hon.C.F. (former Moderator of the Church of Scotland and former Minister of Scottish Memorial Church of St. Andrew in Jerusalem.)



The branch dinner-dance took place on 25th August, 1990 at the City Mills Hotel, Perth and it can be said that it was a memorable success. Seventy-five sat down to dine which was just five less than last year and this number included members, relatives and friends. It so happened to be the 10th annual dinner of this branch which was worth celebrating in itself. The branch chairman welcomed the guests and in his address mentioned several members of Central Council, too numerous to mention and he thanked Council for its continued support and the attendance of so many councillors at our branch annual function. Others welcomed as new faces were Stan and Margaret Baxendale, Bert Ogden, Sam and Mrs. Summerland, as well as John de Meza, a Donor Member who lives in Portugal and who is a former member of the Nyasaland Police. Among the English "regulars" were Peter and Sheena Hornby, Alf and Jean Gregson, Sam Davies, Jim Marsh and Mrs. Madge Beveridge, widow of the late Jack, who travelled all the way from Leicestershire to be with us.

We welcome back to Scotland, Bill Young, who has been in exile for several years in Milton Keynes but is now going to resettle in Scotland. W. C. (Bill) Anderson, who is a Scot anyway, was present in the course of one of his wanderings from Australia, where he now lives. He was given a lift back to Aberdeen by Bob Low, who lives there. Roy Lamond was unable to be present. He is a founder member of this branch but he was able to telephone Sam Summerland and have a chat. We welcome our share from the Derby Sweepstake Draw this year and with other donations were able to send the sum of £218 to the School for the Blind in Jerusalem. A very needy cause.

We regret the one death suffered by this branch this year and I was saddened when I read in the Newsletter that Iain Smith of Golspie had died. I knew him very well and served with him in No. 3 Company P.M.F. at Kafr Vitkin. The branch has sent its condolences to Iain's wife, Molly.

All our functions this year have been well supported but there are still a small number of members who have not yet attended a meeting, for various reasons so I would ask them to consider coming along if they can. Our next branch meeting is in March.

J.M.L.

AUSTRALIA (New South Wales Branch)

Chairman/Secretary/Treasurer: A. V. Leadbetter, 48a Kingslingley Road, Greenwich, New South Wales 2965, Australia.



Report from the pen of Frank L. Ormsby.

I see we are to communicate directly to the Editor again, which we are glad to see. We have not had a function since May nor were we able to arrange a party for Paddy and Eleanor Thompson due in the main to the tyranny of distance. But Iris and myself were delighted to entertain them both to dinner at our home on Monday, 17th September, when we had a natter about things past and present. They returned to Perth, W.A. later in the week. I have had another postcard from W. C. (Bill) Anderson, who is now in Scotland, apparently with Jim Gander. (Branch report dated 28th September – Ed.) (Bill's benign visage was glimpsed on the Cenotaph Parade in London – Ed.) Our chairman/secretary/treasurer, Arch Leadbetter, has been on holiday. Fred Sylvester suffered a heart attack recently (See Sick Parade – Ed.) and I have spoken to Tom Harney on the telephone. (Again see Sick Parade – Ed.)

Tom had a telephone call from John Wonham of Toowoomba Bay, New South Wales and he hopes to join us at our next get-together. We are now gearing up for a visit from John and Dorothy Foster next year and we are pondering upon the matter. But with regard to slightly earlier events in 1990, it should be known that on 20th May, 1990 this branch held a luncheon at the Curzon Hall to mark the anniversary of the Stand Down in Palestine or at least commiserate the matter. Considering this was the 42nd anniversary, we had an excellent attendance. A

total of 20 as a matter of fact. Arch Leadbetter had managed to get hold of a private room with a large balcony overlooking the spacious grounds of the Hall. Those present were: Arch and Sue Leadbetter, Tom and Betty Harney, Harry and Betty Steel, Fred and Beatrice Sylvester, Jim and Vera Hagarty, Mike Cleasby, Joe Kremer, Eve Wright, Ris and myself (the Ormsbys). Five friends of Arch and Sue joined us. One of Jim Hagarty's guardsman guests, a Jim McConnell, had known a P.P. in Eritrea and Somaliland. In fact he said he had been selected by, and had worked closely with, Michael Sylvester O'Rorke. (They don't come more prestigious than that – Ed.) We hope the convivial company gave Mike Cleasby some relief from the recent loss of his dear wife. It was, in short, a good day.

F.L.O.

AUSTRALIA (Victoria Branch)

Chairman: A. C. W. (Allan) Bolton, 7 Bowen Street, Richmond, Victoria 3121.

Vice-Chairman: R. L. (Reg) Priestley, 4 Cliffdale Avenue, Deception Bay, Queensland 4508.

Secretary: Frank Baines, 7/10 Dickens Street, Elwood, Victoria 3184. Tel: 534 6510.

Treasurer: Cedric Coxsedg, 8 Leicester Street, North Balwyn, Victoria 3104.

Committee: Messrs. W. W. E. P. (Gus) Hardy, Arthur Judd, Pat Kelliher and S. A. (Sidney) Mann.

★

The branch annual general meeting is scheduled to take place on 10th November, 1990 and this was circulated in No. II of Taht el Taht with the added information that the venue had not been fixed. The next issue of the same high quality journal informed branch members that the venue was still not established and the date was also suspect. All this is because our old home at the Police Association Club is no more. Perhaps in the next Association Newsletter, we will be able to announce that the A.G.M. did take place and that the branch officers still have their jobs.

On 25th August, a small group consisting of Allan and Fleur Bolton, Arthur and Pat Judd, Pat and Georgina Kelliher and Frank Baines attended a concert followed by light refreshments as guests of The Templar Society of Australia. A most pleasant evening.

We are all geared up to the Deputy Inspector General's Inspection, sorry the general secretary's visit, next year. Our Vice-Chairman, Reg Priestley, has done a grand tour and has joined the growing list of P.P. globe-trotters or circumnavigators, some of whose names appear elsewhere. Reg's itinerary is enclosed at the tail end of this report out of interest to his many friends and acquaintances.

F.B.

AUSTRALIA (Western Australia Branch)

Chairman: S. G. Thompson, 25 Tamarisk Way, Woodlands, Western Australia 6018.

Secretary/Treasurer: Charles Eadon-Clarke, 9 Sutherland Close, Guildford, Western Australia 6055.

★

This branch is not fully recovered from the deaths of Tony Tomlins, of whom I think had only recently rejoined the Association and Frankie Pizer, whom I have known very well from Palestine days. (See Obituary Notices – Ed.) For myself (Charles E-C.) and my wife, Tina, we shall both be absent in Malaya from 17th Augut, 1990 to the end of the same month so as to enjoy a holiday in Paradise. We are going with two other couples, both ex-army and will concentrate on the little known East Coast. It should be a good holiday in an area I learned to discover the hard way. I planned the route and the others will be joining in, so it will all be over by the time this gets as far as the Newsletter.

C. E-C.

AUSTRALIA (Correspondence)

We have heard, that is to say the general secretary has heard, from E. V. Digby, 148 Beulah Road, Norwood, South Australia 5067, who seems to be "In the pink", He is obviously very proud of his two sons and one daughter which is some sort of reward in itself. Jack Sharpe of 11 Scott Road, Safety Bay, Western Australia 6169 had a recent "experience" which he shared with us. He had decided to have a patio fitted to his bungalow and settled upon a quotation from a certain Mellors. The day the installation started coincided with the departure of Royal Australian Navy ships for the Persian Gulf. Conversation got round to the Middle East and Mellors remarked his father had served in the Palestine Police. None other than the lately lamented B/Sgt. 1022 E. Mellors, a depot law instructor to boot. Quite a coincidence. Sounds to us that a likely associate member is awaiting recruitment. Meanwhile if anyone wishes to communicate with John Mellors, he can be found at 17 Boon Court, Rockingham, Western Australia 6168.

We had a letter from John Wonham of 4/50 Thelma Street, Toowoyn Bay, New South Wales 2261 because he was concerned that his application for membership had gone astray. It had not but it took some time to get processed through the system. John was a mounted chap, formerly number 293. Welcome to the fold.

Editor

NEW ZEALAND (Auckland)

A communication from N. S. (Paddy) Stewart of 39 Walter Street, Takapuna, Auckland 9 dated 15th August, 1990 points out that there are now insufficient members to actually constitute a branch. At the time of writing, one of the locals was in hospital (See Sick Parade – Ed.), three are victims of anno Domini, another couple have removed to a retirement village some 30 miles away so it is not easy to arrange the local and by now traditional “get togethers” that distinguished the Aucklanders from all others.

But Paddy Stewart is still the best person to act as a clearing house of P.P. matters in the area. We shall award him with the appellation of Our Man in Auckland, a signal honour in itself. Small items of news from New Zealand can be found scattered in other sections of the Newsletter.

Also from New Zealand is correspondence from J. P. (Jock) Taylor of 47 Lewin Street, Balclutha. Jock was also in the Malaya Police and his letter has proved most helpful in the chase for exact locations of graves of former P.P., whether Palestine or Malaya. We owe him a largish “thank you”.

Editor

NOT SURE WHERE OR WHEN



L. to r. Back: 889, 460 D. F. Campbell, 928 J. P. Stephens, 877, 151 J. J. Breen, 319 A. L. S. Callan, 295 J. G. Burnett.

Centre: 714, 440, 303, 562, 386 R. A. W. Forbes, 852, 587, 596, 1054 J. Gohren.

Front: 886 L. Hannan, 856, 250 T. F. Urwin, B/Sgt. 828, B/Sgt. 784 A. Campbell (later D.S.P.), 216, 845 T. G. Ball, 36 and 863 J. L. Doody.

There's a lot of talent in this group. We would like to identify some more.

A RELAXED MOMENT?



*B/Const. 542. But who, where and when are not known.
Photograph from the collection of the late George Head.*

THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS



*Frontier post at Jisr Banat Yacoub – 1939 and not long opened.
Photograph from D. W. (Dicky) Bird.*

A "GATHER" OF P.P. – 1990



*L. to r. Dave Rooney, Charlie Gardner, Joe Keeton and John Grieve.
Photograph from Ursula Rooney. (See Home Notes – Ed.)*

A "GATHER" OF P.P. – BEISAN 1937



*Standing. Insp. Bedawi. Sitting. L. to r. 688 Russell, 652 Donati, 983 W. H. Miller, 301 Edmunds, 725 Dryden. Squatting. 225 Scott.
Photograph from Aubrey Nye.*

A SMART LOT



*L. to r. Standing. B/Const. 2997 (looks very much like Arthur New to us), B/Const. 1582 Bill Mackinson (deceased) and 3423(?).
Seated. 71? and B/Const. 2435.
Does anyone know who the last three are?
Photograph from Mrs. Mackinson.*



*L. to r. Frank Dougherty, Dorothy Parker, Angus Barclay, Joan Dougherty, Ian Finch, Marion Doty, Lena Davies, Noel Davies, The "G.S.", Nancy Guest, Ed Doty and Alan Guest.
Photograph from John Foster.*

THE G.S. TAKES A TRIP

Although seeing many P.P. in far flung places is planned with our proposed trip in 1991 around the world, it was found difficult to include the North American continent, except in a very minimal way, so Dorothy and I set off for Canada and the United States of America for just over seven weeks in 1990, and this is really a synopsis of who we saw and where we went on the P.P. circuit. First stop was Toronto where Central Councillor David Niven has a brother, John and his wife Arlene, and they kindly looked after us for a week. Ed and Marion Doty arranged to pick us up at the airport and return us to the airport later. Ed had arranged a get-together while we were in Toronto and this took place at his house. Alan and Nancy Guest and Noel and Rena Davies, Ian Finch, Angus Barclay and Frank and Joan Docherty all turned up so that with our own wives (Arlene, Marion and Dorothy), we actually had 14 present. Harry Summerton was working but I did manage to speak to him on the telephone. Bill and Nancy Bolton were unable to make it and Arthur Morgan was in the U.K.

At Niagara Falls, we met Gerald and Betty Chapman who were great hosts. In due course, we flew from Toronto to Calgary where we were met by John Cresswell. He and his wife, Donnie, put us up for a week and we had the opportunity of exploring part of the Rockies from there. My cousin, Bob and his wife, Joan, who are from Vancouver, met us at Calgary and we travelled south through Montana, Wyoming, Idaho and Washington in a huge circle before reaching Vancouver. In Vancouver, B.C., Tom and Sylvia Richards also arranged a get-together and this time we were joined by John Hancocks, Joan Bean, Ken and Sherry King, May Murray and Beryl Goldie, which with the two of us and our cousins made up a party of 12. I had hoped to meet William Jeffery's daughter so as to thank her for donating some pictures to the Association, which her late father had painted. But she was unable to come. We then set off for another foray into "The States", this time through Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Arizona, Nevada and California then back through Oregon and Washington to Vancouver. We have enjoyed tremendous scenic views of course but also suffered extremes of weather. Flash storms, poor visibility, flood conditions, two very bad thunder storms, extreme heat – in fact the lot. We were back at Heathrow on 24th July and through these pages, Dorothy and I would like to thank all those old comrades and others who did so much to make our trip memorable.

John Foster

A MAN NAMED TOM LLOYD

This is a cameo portrait of a colleague and I refer to B/M/Constable Tom Lloyd, although I cannot remember his number. (Probably 1160 – Ed.) I remember him well as a beefy Yorkshireman of forbidding statue which belied his inherent gentleness. A single faded photograph of him taken in the stable yard is all I need to recall one particular day. The photograph was taken moments before he and I with four M/P/Constables left Beit Dajan Tegart for Saffuriya village almost midway between the station and Lydda where a fasad of large proportions had erupted and was still erupting. The entry from my note book is sufficient to describe a typical "sawari" patrol and reads after much editing:

13/6/1947. Saffuriya village – Mounted patrol from Beit Dajan with B/M/C. Lloyd and four M/P/Constables (I recall only 2167 and 952) arrested the following persons.

For attempted murder and unlawful carrying of arms.

C/R 161/47. Abdul Rahim Mousa Hussein.

Arrested for affray. C/R 164/47. (Eleven persons listed of whom members of the Nofal, Akhras and Tarafandi families were well represented – Ed.)

Arrested for assault. C/Rs 165 to 174/47. (Fifteen persons arrested – Ed.)

Arrested for affray. C/R 164/47. (Fifteen persons arrested – Ed.)

There was little out of the ordinary in this report, yet on reflection the patrol was unique. In Suffuria the rioting mob on the threshing ground soon dispersed when we rode into their midst. We then settled down in the Madafi with the Mukhtar to discuss matters. On the surface the dispute was about the virginity – or perhaps the lack of it – of a young Muslim bride to be and here were two British constables trying to settle what had become a violent and bloody dispute. But there was of course a deeper undercurrent which helped to stir things up. We decided to impose a curfew with the consent of the Mukhtar and the village elders. Tom and I were to split the watches from 6.00 p.m. that evening and the four Palestinian constables were split into details. Nothing untoward happened and we returned with the prisoners to Beit Dajan next day.

TOM LLOYD AT BEIT DAJJAN 1947



Photograph from Ron McAllister.

The accompanying photograph, if it comes out, shows Tom and his horse, whose name I cannot recall. Although ungainly in action, it was one of the finest jumpers it has been my good fortune to ride. Tom's horse was the only horse I ever rode that was capable of jumping 3½-foot roped enclosure from a standing position yet keep his unwary rider seated.

Tom lost his heart to a young and extremely beautiful Yemenite lady who lived in a Jewish settlement. A wedding was eventually arranged, concluded and celebrated with much gusto at Beit Dajan and I would dearly love to know where they are now. I feel it a privilege to have known and served with Tom who was a splendid example of a stalwart Palestine Policeman at his very best and who kept a volatile part of the world relatively peaceful through their own blend of initiative, sympathy and courage for many years. Wherever you are, Tom, please know that your comrades who rode with you and were fortunate enough to celebrate your wedding with you, would like to get in touch.

Ron McCallister

FADING MEMORIES RECALLED – PART ONE

In 1947, I was coming to the end of my apprenticeship at Chatham Dockyard. I always wanted to be a policeman and street hoardings at the time were covered by a well-known advertisement for the Palestine Police – “£20 a month and all found”. My wage as a journeyman was to be 102/- per week, out of which was taken income tax. So I applied to join the Force. There were the usual interviews and medical examination in London and in due time tickets and labels arrived in a thick envelope. On a certain date, I was to join a special train in London and go to Liverpool to board the “T.S. Samaria” (an appropriate name).

I'd never been north of the Thames before and I found the changing scenery interesting. Eventually the train pulled alongside the ship and we looked out on lovely sunshine and people walking around in summer clothes. Then we left the train. We froze! Some of us had taken our raincoats and so it was on with the raincoats. Then some of the locals said “What y'r got y'r coats on for? It's summer.” We said, “If this is summer, we don't want to see winter.”

When on board, we were shown our quarters. We did not travel troopdeck style. That high-class accommodation was reserved for the “brutal and licentious soldiery”. Our quarters were, for want of a better word, dormitories with a number of two-tier bunks. There were some P.P. chaps returning from leave in with us and these were detailed to act as “sea daddies”, as the navy says. We messed in the dining saloon – all nice table-cloths and the right number of knives and forks.

Once at sea, we hit bad weather. Rough seas, heavy rain, wind – we had it all. All the way down England and across the Bay of Biscay. The weather eased about a day from Gibraltar. The captain announced he would increase speed in the hope of seeing “Gib” by daylight. Poor old Samaria trembled from stem to stern, a long trail of black smoke falling behind us. Possibly the old “lady” might have made 17 knots. We did see “Gib”, in the evening light and very impressive it looked.

We “Members of the Government of Palestine”, as the rubber stamp in our passports stated, were allowed to walk the boatdeck, this being the preserve of service officers and their ladies. Peacetime had come with a vengeance. There were young officers in tropical mess kit – some with chain mail on their shoulders (cavalry types) and A.T.S. officers all very neat and smart. They passed us by and pointedly ignored us.

The sea daddies kept an eye on us. One burly sergeant said, “You don't hit the locals when you get to Port Said”. When we disembarked, he pointed out that our kit would be taken care of. As we got ashore, the usual horde of horrible attendants made a rush for our kit. The same burly sergeant stepped the rush by knocking one of them clear into the water. I said, “Sarge, you said we must never hit the locals”. He replied, “Ah, sometimes you must”.

At Kantara, across the canal, we came face to face with a transit camp which consisted of miles and miles of vacant tents in the sand. The only building of substance was the officers' mess where we drank all the beer. The train journey started after dark and we were placed in “poor peoples'” coaches with wooden seats. We were told to keep a guard on our kit as the train moved slowly and it was not unknown for thieves to board the slow-moving train and steal everything. We gazed at the scenery. Sand, sand and even more sand. Some of us even got onto the roof for greater comfort. Sure enough, some of the local gentry climbed aboard the last coach. Suddenly all was well as a “redcap” (not the US cavalry) ran past us with a pistol in hand. This was strictly movie stuff. He ran – jumped – ran – jumped and fired a shot – then ran on. He must have hit one, because there was a scream and one fell from the coach. The remainder all voluntarily debussed.

In the morning, we arrived at Gaza. Here we left the train and were moved into three-ton trucks with an armoured car escort bound for Jenin. We meandered through the country dropping off those who were returning from leave. We had been told if the convoy is mined then as soon as safe jump out, hit the ditch and let the escort look after things. A nice thought. When one is young, one does not worry all that much. So there we were, lovely weather and bowling along merrily when BANG. I saw bits of tyre in the air. The convoy stopped. We hit the ditch. But false alarm, it was a tyre burst. Phew!

So we arrived at Jenin, which one ex-service recruit a few days later described as “Another bleedin' Caterham”. Funny place, we thought. A narrow gauge railway ran the length of the parade ground. One could not call it a square, could one? It was so long and narrow.

Peter South

This interesting narrative will continue in the next issue – Ed.

A CHRISTMAS STORY

At this time of year with Christmas approaching, my thoughts always return to my first Christmas in Palestine. The year was 1939 and I had only been posted to Safed from "Scopus" about seven weeks previously. Preparations had been under way in good time with the mess caterers of nearby Scots College, the magistrates' court and Serrai billet co-operating well together. Eventually the big day arrived and the tables were nicely set out in the dining hall of Scots College with a large bottle of – was it Whitehawk? – at each table place.

Being the most recent recruit and a Scotsman, I was asked if I would do the necessary billet orderly for the evening and I would have Hogmanay off. I was assured I had just to stand by the telephone, just in case. The evening got off to a fine, self-conscious start. We had two guests of honour – Miss Sutherland and Miss Morris, matron and sister respectively from Safed Hospital. They were duly introduced by the mess president, to well-mannered hand claps. I, myself, was seated at a table near the door so that I could be near the telephone and was allowed to join in the dinner and ensuing jollifications.

Everything went well and in due course the meal was over and the toasts and niceties completed. The two ladies eventually retired and left us to get on with our own sort of mayhem. The tables were cleared and reset with large platters of sandwiches. We had locked up Dick Ridley's leopard in case it caused pandemonium and the station monkey was banished too because he had cultivated a bad habit of "flashing" when in company. After the ladies had departed, Dick Ridley took it upon himself to regale us with stories of his service in the "Umpteenth" Hussars. And so it continued, well into the early hours. I had only one telephone call to answer. The caller had what we in Scotland call "a bool in the mouth", a very Anglified accent and I simply could not comprehend what he was saying. I never did discover who the caller was.

My penultimate memory of that night was going into the recreation room, some time during the night and seeing Jimmy Reat laying on two morris chairs and Jock Cowie, another of us "Picts", covering him with a pair of 12-foot green velour curtains which he had taken down from the windows. He made the remark, "We can't let the poor old beggar die in the cold". (The temperature would be about 80°.) My ultimate memory is of Jimmy waking at about 6.00 a.m., folding away his "bedding" then dusting himself down and passing me with that inimitable swagger of his and giving me a gruff "Morning" as he made his way to his room.

I often think that with all the memories we have collectively of Palestine, no one who served in the Palestine Police will be forgotten. At least as long as Jock Montgomery is alive, they will be remembered by name and by voice. On that note, I wish all our members all the best at Christmas and better still at Hogmanay.

*Angus Montgomery 1/B/Sgt. 1079
(Dogmaster)*

OUCH!

ONBASHI REGRETS THAT BECAUSE OF PRESSURE OF SPACE BY VIRTUE OF IMPORTANT SEASONAL FEATURES IN THIS ISSUE, HE HAS BEEN PUSHED OFF THE PAGES BUT HOPES TO PICK HIMSELF UP, DUST HIMSELF OFF AND CLAMBER ABOARD THE NEXT ISSUE. HE HAS LODGED A COMPLAINT TO THE EDITOR, WHO WILL MAKE DUE ENQUIRY INTO THE MATTER.



APOLOGIES TO BRIAN ROBB. 8th ARMY ARTIST



*SUSPICIOUS PHENOMENA
A piece of wire. Lydda District*

OBITUARY NOTICES

With the death of Lord Caradon, P.C., G.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., O.B.E., just a few months ago, the Association lost a patron. It was as Hugh Foot and later as Sir Hugh Foot that he carved out a distinguished career in the former Colonial Service and much later with ministerial rank, to become permanent United Kingdom representative at the United Nations organisation. Hugh Foot, who was 82 when he died, came from a well known West Country radical family. His father, Isaac, who was a well known bibliophile, begat three sons. Each in his own way was to make his mark upon their generation, yet each seemingly very different from the other two. They were, Hugh, Dingle and Michael Foot, although Hugh was not as politically orientated as his brothers and instead became a highly professional administrator. Much of his career was not without controversy, particularly at the time he served as Governor of Cyprus, when it has been recorded that sometimes he was not easy to serve. But it was his period as A.D.C. Nablus from 1927-37, a time which included some temporary postings elsewhere in the country, that he is best remembered by Palestine Policemen of the time.

The job of an administrator is very different from that of a policeman and it is a matter of record that some misunderstandings arose as to the administrator's role in troubled times. But Hugh Foot acquired a firm grip of what was involved in the business of governing a people who did not particularly want to be governed by outsiders and he was to say afterwards that his time in Palestine really set the mark on his future career. As one of our patrons (appointed in 1979), Lord Caradon has proved to be a firm supporter of this Association and all its activities and often wrote appreciative comments about the Newsletter and the people mentioned in it. He lost his wife, Florence Sylvia, about five years ago but leaves three sons and a daughter. He had a powerful voice in the business of trying to get Israeli and West Bank Arabs together and his loss will be deeply felt by all who espoused the views of that particular lobby. Meanwhile, we have lost someone who very much understood our problems and felt something of our comradeship and respected our need to hang on to memories of that marvellous country called Palestine. I think Lord Caradon had the same need.

Edward Horne

We were saddened to learn from his son, that Mervyn J. E. Morgan, M.A., J.P., Barrister at Law (Inner Temple), died on 31st July, 1990 at his home in Nairobi, Kenya, his wife, Doris Morgan, M.B.E., having died earlier this year. Mervyn Morgan was what can only be described as a delightful chap and was an old friend of the Palestine Police and of this Association. He was not a Palestine Policeman but a member of the Palestine judiciary. He followed our fortunes both in Palestine and afterwards very closely. He was a former chief magistrate in Palestine, mostly sitting in Jerusalem, to whom dozens of our members took cases for hearing or prisoners for remand or summonses to be applied for or even, in one or two mercifully rare occasions, to appear before him as alleged offenders. He was widely esteemed on the Jerusalem bench and eventually retired from the Colonial legal service with a District Court Judge's pension. I used to write to him from time to time and always addressed him as "Dear

Judge". He once wrote back and illustrated his sense of humour by starting his letter "Dear Constable". Very occasionally he would sit in Tel Aviv and he, himself, has recalled the time when John Fforde was given the duty of personal bodyguard for a few days.

In later years he settled in Nairobi and there ran a successful advocate's practice. We are grateful to his son, Richard, for keeping us informed about his father's death. Richard Morgan can be found at 88 Foxwood Road, Stamford, Connecticut 06903, U.S.A. (We have construed that Ct. means Connecticut – Ed.) We offer our sincere sympathy in the loss of both parents in so short a time but also offer this consolatory thought. Judge Morgan was truly held in very high esteem by his peers and all those members of the Force who met him. With his death another little bit of old Palestine has died too.

Edward Horne

I deeply regret to be the person to write this obituary notice in respect of the late Norman G. Regan, former B/Const. 2736 of June 1947 vintage in Palestine, yet as someone who in later years grew to know him fairly well, I feel it is a duty I must perform conscientiously. I did not get to know Norman until long after the Stand Down in Palestine and he always seemed extraordinarily young and fit to me. He was in fact only 64 when he died suddenly at his home at Carey's Cottages, Brockenhurst, Hampshire SO42 7TF, where he lived with his sister, Joan. He had enjoyed his birthday on 23rd September but then died the following day.

Norman never married and after coming home from Palestine he became a schoolteacher but then joined the Civil Service. I never asked precisely what he did because one does not wish to compromise a friend and colleague but I know he was involved in highly confidential work for the Ministry of Defence. He took early retirement and to some extent regretted that decision. Norman was in one sense a very private person and probably well suited to his work, yet there was no one more closely identified with this Association. He turned up regularly at the Cardinal for many years and could always be found in the ranks of those parading at the Cenotaph. Indeed, with his particularly erect posture, he stood out well. In more recent years, I bumped into him from time to time when he and his sister came shopping to New Milton but six miles from his home. Always quiet yet jovial, pleasant and unassuming and always very much a gentleman. He was loyal to us, loyal to his country and a fine representative of our old force.

There was a funeral service at Bournemouth North Crematorium on Friday, 5th October which was attended by family and friends. The Association was represented by Ted and June Horne, Tom Walker and Les Quilter, an old friend who came across from West Sussex. There were no flowers by request: instead donations were invited to the New Milton R.N.L.I. We offer our deepest sympathy to poor Joan, his sister, to whom we say that although her brother's sudden death came as a great shock to us all, he will be sorely missed.

Edward Horne

I regret to be the one to pen this notice regarding the death of Edmond Paul Grace, I.S.O., Q.P.M., C.P.M., who died from cancer at his home on 5th September, 1990. Paul Grace had a distinguished career in three police forces, the first being the Palestine Police which he joined as B/Const. 2630 on 31st October, 1946 and served most of his time at Jenin and then Nablus until the Stand Down. He was one of the men recruited directly into the Metropolitan Police and served in that force from June 1948 until March 1949, when he succeeded in entering the Hong Kong Police (later Royal Hong Kong Police) in August of that year.

It would appear that his career then "took off" as it were because in the following 32 years he rose to become an Assistant Commissioner of the Royal Hong Kong Police. His experience being not only extremely varied but carrying great responsibilities. His awards illustrate these points exactly. Firstly the Colonial Police Medal (for meritorious service) or C.P.M. in 1963. The Queen's Medal for Distinguished Service 1971 or Q.P.M. The Colonial Police Long Service Medal (1st clasp 1971) and (2nd clasp 1976). This culminated with an award from Her Majesty of the Imperial Service Order (I.S.O.).

Paul leaves a widow, Winifred, a son and four daughters, to all of whom we extend our deep sympathy for what can only be described as a devastating loss. Paul, who was in Palestine for less than two years, carried with him that spirit of dedicated service that has so marked out our old force as the best there was. In this case our friends in the Royal Hong Kong Police received the benefit. He will be mourned by all who knew him.

S. W. (Micky) Hills

With grateful thanks to John Gale, editor of the R.H.K.P. magazine and J. H. (John) Grieve, C.P.M. (ex-B/Const. 821) in Scotland for valuable assistance in compiling details of Paul's career.

Once more it is my sad duty to inform readers of the death of Kenneth E. Eldridge, lately of 43 Arran Road, Catford, London SE26 2LM, although it was briefly mentioned in the last issue. (Page 53 of N/L. 160 – Ed.) Ken is former B/Const. 2811 and he joined the Force on 3rd March, 1939 after service in the King's Regiment (Liverpool) in which much of his time was spent in India. He soon came to notice in Palestine as a boxer, all-round athlete and a soccer, cricket and tennis player. (During the mid-war years, he was regularly playing cricket and soccer for the Jerusalem District sides.) Most of his service was at Meashearim and Mustashfa, where at the latter he was nicknamed "Doc" due to his great interest in first aid matters. But in recent years, Ken was dogged by bad health and the evening years of his life was of low quality. He was 81 when he died in Lewisham Hospital in early August 1990. There was a cremation service at Hither Green on 16th August at which the Association was represented by Don Cartwright, Terry Shand, Len Sexton and Micky Hills. Our condolences go out to a brother at Ramsgate and other relatives.

Micky Hills

We are saddened to learn of the death of Rebecca, dear wife of Dennis Prior, of 62 Beverley Court, Cedar Drive, Sunningdale, Ascot, Buckinghamshire SL5 0UB. This lady died on 11th March, 1990 but for various reasons word from our informant got lost in the system, so that nothing was mentioned in the last issue. Rebecca and Dennis met in Haifa at the time that he served on District C.I.D. there. Shortly after the wedding, she was shot by a sniper and rushed to Hadassah Hospital. Dennis was by then attached to HaDar HaCarmel police station and dashed off at once to be at his wife's bedside. While there, her parents arrived and discovered for the first time that their daughter had married a British police officer. Several of his colleagues had attended the wedding which took place at the office of the District Commissioner. One who attended was Frank Ormsby, who was able to renew an old and valued friendship when he and Dennis met again in the Kenya Police at Meru on the slopes of Mount Kenya. The marriage has been a loving success and with Rebecca's death, we mourn the passing of a vivacious, charming and affectionate friend of tremendous courage and resourcefulness and offer our deepest sympathy to Dennis and his family.

Ted Horne

I heard in the early hours of 13th June, 1990 from June Pizer that her husband, F. C. (Frankie) Pizer, had died. Although in one sense this was not entirely unexpected as he had suffered bouts of ill health for a long time, it still came as a stunning blow, particularly to those who had known him over many years. Apparently he died peacefully at his home in the course of sleep. Frankie had been a notable character in Palestine, joining the Force in the middle 1930s and left before the end of the war years. We were together in Tiberias, Nazareth and for some time at Mount Scopus and the Old City. We played rugby all over the country and we both took part in several productions of the Police Players. Perhaps I got to know him better because we were even sick together in Haifa Government Hospital and from the time we went in to the time we came out, he gave his religion as Church of Egypt.

From his days in the army in the Far East to his service in Palestine then Tripolitania and finally Egypt, he was always serving the British monarch. Later I urged him to come to Australia where he finally settled. His first wife died tragically but his second wife, June, was introduced to Frankie by another P.P. migrant, Mike Rodway and they always seemed a well paired couple. I realise that Frankie was known to a very wide circle of friends both in the Force and afterwards. He was a gallant chap and survived many escapades both as a policeman and as a soldier. I also realise that he will be sadly missed. He is a fine example to many who might wish to follow in his footsteps, because although Frankie loved life and lived it to the fullest extent, when his country called he put his personal pleasures aside and put his entire weight behind his unit, his police force and his country that he held dear. On behalf of all old comrades, we offer our sincere condolences to June.

Charles Eadon-Clarke

I was saddened to learn that my old friend and comrade Frank Pizer passed over on 13th June, 1990. He was a native of Chesterfield but had spent most of his adult life abroad, for the past 26 years in Perth, Western Australia, where he remarried. In recent years, he suffered considerably from ill health and spent long periods in hospital. I first met Frank in Nazareth in 1939 and it was the beginning of a lifelong friendship. I do not know when he joined the Force, I believe about 1938 after service in the army, mainly in the Far East. He left the Force some time during the second world war and joined the elitist Long Range Desert Group with which he served in North Africa, Italy and Greece. We met again when he was appointed British Inspector in the Tripolitania police in 1947, from which he resigned in 1951 to join the United Nations Agrarian Group in the same territory. Afterwards Frank served in Kuwait then he was in business in Cyprus, finally to settle in Western Australia. His first wife died with terminal illness in London about 1955. He last attended the annual dinner and Cenotaph parade in London in 1981 and he also attended the unveiling of the memorial plaque the same day. In his heyday, he was a keen sportsman and played rugby, soccer and cricket. He was also a fine horseman. He was of enormous integrity, yet always understanding, compassionate and helpful and was generally liked and respected by all who knew him. A staunch comrade in all situations and always excellent company. I shall miss him. Our condolences go to his widow and to his relations.

Bill Penwright

A further report I must give is to announce the death of A. V. (Tony) Tomlins, former B/Sergeant 972 and lately of 6 Oleander Street, Maddington, Western Australia 6018. Unfortunately Tony had been suffering badly from diabetes and his health had deteriorated considerably recently. I am not in possession of his service details in Palestine but understand his record was outstanding. He leaves a widow, Grace, to whom we all extend our deepest sympathy. Another fine Old Comrade has been "posted above".

C. Eadon-Clarke

On 21st September, 1990 John Gibson, formerly of the British gendarmerie, Palestine Police and Shanghai International Police, more correctly called Shanghai Municipal Police. Before any of this, he had served as a commissioned officer in World War I. After leaving Palestine in or about 1934, his exciting life was close to the Japan/China conflict of the late 1930s and finally when war broke out with England, he was taken prisoner by the Japanese forces. After the war, he served with the German Control Commission as a senior officer and it was during that time that he met and married Dagmar.

John took a final trip to Scotland in April, 1990 but within two days of his arrival, he suffered a stroke and entered hospital. When fit enough to travel, he returned to South Australia where he lived and was again admitted to hospital but eventually he suffered another stroke and died on 21st September. John was an old warrior who had packed much into an adventure-strewn life. It is on record

that among his happiest days were those spent in Palestine, his Force number being either 62 or 162.

Our sympathy is extended to his dear wife, Dagmar and his daughter, also Dagmar, and her husband, John.

Allan Bolton

We are very sorry to learn of the death of Richard G. Thairs on 3rd September, 1990. Dick served in the Palestine Police from 1937-9. This news came from his widow, Marjorie, who lives at 59 Chipstead Lane, Lower Kingswood, Tadworth, Surrey KT20 6RD. There was a cremation service on 10th September at which The Holy City was sung by request. Dick Thairs had been in ill health for the last 18 months or so, due to kidney failure and he was on dialysis at his home, which for such an independent person must have been dreadfully tedious. On behalf of all old comrades, we offer Marjorie our deepest sympathy at this dark hour and hope she will continue to keep in touch with the rest of us for many years to come.

Edward Horne

It is with regret that I record the passing of Thomas (Tommy) Hanlon, former 3119, on Monday, 21st August, 1990 following a long illness. Tom was one of a family of 13 children born in Manchester in 1913. At the age of 15, he set up on his own as a professional golf caddy and thus toured golf courses throughout the British Isles, also resulting in a life-long love of golf. At 18, he joined the Cheshire Regiment and served in the U.K., India, Africa, Cyprus and Malta. He then joined the Palestine Police in November 1938, by then aged 25 and served until the Stand Down. He is undoubtedly best remembered for his time in Gaza as well as Jerusalem. While in Jerusalem he was seconded to the "I" Branch and served with the anti-subversion unit. While in Palestine he met and courted Eleanora. He returned to his old regiment in 1944 and was demobilised two years later.

After Palestine, they settled in Australia and Tom was employed as a security officer and chief security officer with two firms. The first folded but then he served the Commonwealth Reserve Bank until retirement. Tom's great loves apart from his wife and family were golf, soccer and water polo. The branch was represented at his funeral by Frank Baines, Allan and Fleur Bolton, Cedric Coxsedg, Arthur Judd, Arthur, Ruth and Sheila New, George and Shirley Robinson, Eric (Winnie) and Sarina Sharp and Bob Yates. Everyone in the Victoria branch will miss Tom, his sense of humour and his constructive help and assistance but we know he will be among friends in the "Big Tegar" and await the rest of us to join him. Farewell, old friend.

Allan Bolton and Arthur New

Victoria branch, Australia has lost another of its members and it is with deep regret that I record the death of Arthur Spencer Judd, ex-B/Const. 4035. Arthur was born in May 1922 and served in 4th Bn. Queen's Own West Surrey Regiment as a territorial soldier in 1937. The regiment was converted to a Royal Artillery role and Arthur served until 1942 in the West of England and in London District on anti-aircraft duties. He took part in the North Africa campaign before joining the Palestine Police in October 1944. After training at Jenin, he served in Sarona, Jerusalem and Acre and was a member of Jerusalem Operational Patrol (J.O.P.). In 1955, he arrived in Australia and after private employment joined the Victoria police in which he served until retirement in 1984.

There was a service prior to cremation at Springvale Necropolis on 4th October, 1990 at which the branch was represented by Frank Baines, Allan and Fleur Bolton, Cedric and Joan Cossedge, Moya Dunn, David Golds, Slim Harben, Pat and Georgina Kelliher, Arthur and Ruth New and Bob Yates. Walter Weller represented the Templar Society. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Patricia, Catherine, David and Karen. It is a great pity Arthur will have missed the arrival of his first grandchild. His loss will be most deeply felt by us all.

Allan Bolton

The death of Major Stan Collinge, Donor Member, of Matlock, Derbyshire, has come as a great shock to those who knew him. Stan became interested in our affairs many years ago when he made an enquiry about his brother's grave in Palestine. He is the brother of former 1/B/Sergeant 43 Arthur Collinge, C.P.M., who died from wounds received in action on 15th July, 1939. His grave is in Ramleh cemetery. Stan had managed a "one off" visit while in the area during the war but from that time had wondered about its condition and who was looking after the plot. In the process of time, he became so interested in the Palestine Police that he applied to become a Donor Member and in recent years has attended many of our branch and Association functions and has been gladly received.

His death from cancer on August Bank Holiday, 1990 is a blow and we offer our deepest sympathy to his friends and relatives. To us, whenever Stan was present, the ghost of his gallant brother seemed to be present too. We honour the memory of both.

The Editor

The death is announced of Marion Caldwell, aged 83, wife of the late Joseph Reginald (Joe) Caldwell, a former A.S.P., who died in 1977. (See Newsletter 108, page 50 – Ed.) Marion lived at 14 Mill Road, Water Eaton, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. This lady had a special bond with Palestine and indeed with the rest of us because she first went there at Christmas 1933 to join her husband, Joe, who joined the Force in 1930. Their new home was at Nazareth. Many are the times she related to her children tales of those first few primitive months abroad, such as stories about the tins of water they collected for their

washing and cooking, along with meals cooked on an oil stove. Obviously happy times for her and her husband, perhaps the happiest of her life with firm friendships made there.

Marion leaves two daughters, Joyce, born in Haifa in August 1940 and Merlin, born Jerusalem in 1946. Both are now married ladies. She also had two granddaughters. The Association was represented at the funeral service by Dennis Blackburn, to whom the family wish to offer a "big thank you" and have asked that thanks be extended to Lew Boffin, Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Tranter and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Nash for their support during a difficult time. On behalf of the rest of us, we offer deep and sincere sympathy to a family who have lost a marvellous mum, widely loved and respected by many friends from Palestine days. As we prepare this obituary notice, we feel the ghost of Joe Caldwell is not far away. May both of them rest in peace.

Edward Horne

FURTHER TO OBITUARY NOTICE ALREADY GIVEN

Further to the obituary notice published on page 48 of the last issue in respect of the late B/Const. 3277 R. P. (Bob) Knight, we have to announce that the Association was represented at the funeral service by Les Povey, Alan Palmer, John Shapland, Bert Smith and A. J. Briggs.

SHORT NOTICES OF DEATH

We have learned with regret from a Mr. R. L. Killick of 19a Hampton Lane, Solihull, West Midlands B91 2QJ that his brother-in-law, former B/Sergeant 4168 Ronald George Steel, died mid summer 1990. Ron Steel lived at 91 Warren Road, Whitton, Middlesex TW2 7DJ and joined the Force on 1st September, 1945. He served in Jenin and Haifa where no doubt he will be best remembered. We offer sincere condolences to his family.

Another death to be recorded and one not known to us until quite recently is that of former B/Const. Felix Adler, who died in New Milton, Hampshire just over two years ago. His Force number is not in our possession but he joined 11th August, 1941 and only served for a short time before being released to return to the army. He was badly wounded in Italy from which he lost a leg. We offer our deep sympathy to his widow, Irene, with whom we have been in touch about another matter. (See Home Notes – Ed.)

It is with regret that we announce the death of former B/Const. 2598 Lawrence P. Perrett, who is reported to have died in mid 1988. We did not learn of this until quite recently. Lawrence lived at Rowde, near Devizes, Wiltshire and joined the Force in October 1942 and went on to serve until the Stand Down.

Although he lapsed membership some years ago, we none the less offer condolences to his family and acknowledge the passing of an old comrade.

Another old comrade whose death we have heard about very belatedly is former B/Sgt. 1599 Albert (Tug) Wilson, who served from October 1938 until the Stand Down in 1948. He was stationed in such divers places as Jerusalem, Nazareth, Beisan, Tiberias and elsewhere. He died in 1981 and we thank his widow, Joyce, who lives at 3 Huish Gardens, Yeovil, Somerset for this information. Tug's last known address in our records was Turramurra North, New South Wales, Australia which may account for our absence of information.

We are sorry to inform old friends of the late Major Michael Fitzgerald, M.C., K.P.M., a former Superintendent in Palestine, that his widow, Margaret, died recently in Co. Dublin. She lived at Balbiggan. Her husband had been a Palestine gendarmerie officer before transferring to the Palestine Police in 1925. He was fluent in Arabic as well as Hebrew and will be particularly remembered when i./c. Nablus District. With the passing of this lady, we have severed one more connection with our ancient past. Our sincere condolences go to his son, John.

Former B/Const. 419 Edward (Ted) Shawley, Q.P.M., C.P.M., died on 8th September, 1990 in Bristol, which is something deeply regretted. He was April 1936 vintage in Palestine and had been living at Flat 4, 53 Salterton Road, Exmouth, South Devon EX8 2EQ. He leaves a widow, Enid and son, John. A popular police officer in Palestine and his loss will be deeply felt by his former comrades.

We regret to announce the death of William (Bill) Makinson, ex-B/Const. 1582 on 8th July, 1990 at the age of 74. He lived at 34 Frith Avenue, Delamere, Near Northwich, Cheshire CW8 2JB and is survived by his wife and a son.

Bill joined the Force in September 1942 and after settling down it is self evident that he made many friends and was widely regarded in his neighbourhood. He was a Life Member of this Association so that when he succumbed to cancer in the Countess of Chester Hospital, many will feel his loss. There was a cremation service at Crewe and the Association was represented by Brian Morriss of Chorley, who we understand is Bill's nephew and Bernard Lea, a very old pal. To all friends and family, we offer sincere sympathy.

We further regret to report the death of Leslie Whitley, lately of 11 Camberley Crescent, Wrexham, Clwyd, North Wales on 28th September, 1990.

He served in the mounted branch of the Force from 1946-8. There was a funeral service on 5th October. We offer deep sympathy to his widow, Audrey and daughter in their considerable loss.

As we got ready for press, news arrived from Jeff Smith, 33 Spinney Walk, Peterborough PE3 6NR of the death of Daniel James Scallion of 1946 vintage in Palestine who went on to serve in Malaya and then after that to an African territory but our records are incomplete and we do not know where. He eventually settled in Canberra, A.C.T., Australia and died there in 1986. He had retired from the Australia Government Narcotics Agency. We all regret the passing of this old comrade, who leaves a sister in Newcastle to whom we offer sincere condolence and thank Jeff Smith for kindly bringing it all to our notice.

We regret to report that only recently have we heard of the death of former B/Const. 3689 M. T. (Paddy) Flynn, who joined the Force 29th June, 1944, presumably from the army and went on to serve until July, 1947. At the time of his death on 17th September, 1976, he lived in Derbyshire and was a member of Mickleover Royal British Legion Club. He leaves a son, Peter, who has recently become an Associate Member to whom we extend our deep sympathy. (See also Tracer Section - Ed.)

Just as we went to press, we heard that former B/Const. 410 R.C. of Wood Avon, King Edward VII Hospital, Midhurst, West Sussex GU29 0BL died as long as May, 1990. There was a funeral service at which George Upfold represented us all. Our condolences to all his friends and relatives.

OBITUARY NOTICES FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

The late John Munden, Colin Forsey, Ken Lodge and P. H. (Phil) Hardisty of Durban, R.S.A.

(Details have arrived too late for inclusion in this issue - Ed.)

THE LATE KEN ELDRIDGE



A keen sportsman and as we best remember him.
 Photograph from the possessions of the late Ken Eldridge.

MEMORY LANE!



GREETINGS SECTION

BAXENDALE, T. S. (Stan) – 13 Aberdeen Mansions, Kenton Street, London WC1N 1NN sends greetings to: Mrs. Elsie Webb, Mrs. Hilda Williams (in Beirut), Mrs. Renee Henfrey, Mrs. Kathleen Booth, Mrs. Audrey Stanners, Mrs. Joyce Stewart, Bill Penwright, Bill and Marion Castle, Brigadier Rymer-Jones, our president, Terry Shand, our chairman, and all who remember him.

WILLIAMS, A. F. L. (Bill) – Cameo Forge Way, Shortlanesend, Truro, Cornwall TR4 9DB, sends greetings and best wishes to Alan Kirkham, near Taunton, Ken Blackburn, Blandford Forum, Sam Culverhouse in Bath and all former staff of British Records, wherever they may be. (Bill named another on his list who has since died – Ed.)

PENWRIGHT, D. W. (Bill) – 3 Kendall Road, Kempston, Bedford MK42 7DZ sends greetings to colleagues of other times and names: Charles Eadon-Clarke (West Australia), Peter Lee (South Africa), Peter Platts (New Zealand), Trevor Owen (Sweden), Stan Baxendale, Wally Sendall, Bill Tait, Finlay McClean, Brigadier Rymer-Jones and all old comrades.

HILLS, S. W. (Micky) – 57 Kemp House, 103 Berwick Street, London W1V 3PN sends greetings and good health wishes to friends and all members of the Association for Christmas and the New Year. As chairman of the Benevolent Association, he acknowledges and thanks all who have sent donations, especially from those overseas throughout the past year.

BOOTH, Mrs. Kathleen – 16 Cobay Close, Hythe, Kent CT21 6AA sends greetings, love and best wishes to all old friends.

STEWART, N. S. (Paddy) – 39 Walter Street, Takapuna, Auckland 9, New Zealand sends greetings to Ann Brennan, Paddy Dickson, Dixie Gilmore and to his old Port and Marine mate, Busty Reeves.

MINSHALL, Johnny – Freshwinds, 1 Eyton Lane, Baschurch, Shropshire SY4 2JN sends seasonal greetings to Ken and Mildred Price, Jack and Cath Ritchie, Lew and Pam Boffin, Percy Page, Tom and June Harbison, David and Tina Wynne (Donors and members of the family) and Mr. and Mrs. Editor.

GAR SIDE, Mrs. Muff – 6 Greenside Drive, Hitchin, Hertfordshire SG5 2LP sends greetings and thanks to John Costello in Cairns, Derry and Ann Atkinson in Bairnsdale, Arthur and Ruth New, Melbourne and Fred (name mislaid) in Singapore. Also love and greetings to Harry Hargreaves in Mauritius, we think of him often.

CONGRATULATIONS

Another ruby wedding must be reported and this time we have to congratulate Bernard and Audrey Smith of Windways, 35 The Drive, Gravesend, Kent DA12 4BY. This celebration took place as long ago as 25th March, 1990 but we did not hear about it until the tail end of June and too late for the last issue. By all accounts the couple had a happy time, by way of a family party followed by a trip to Amsterdam and the bulb fields, paid for by son Lawrence and daughter Marylin and her husband Peter. Hearty congratulations.

Hearty congratulations are due to Arthur George Kanis and his lady wife, who recently celebrated their 40th (ruby) wedding anniversary. They live at Calle Avenc I, 46760 La Drova-Barx, Valencia, Spain. Their son and his wife went down from Switzerland and 18 people gathered to help them celebrate. Well done from all of us.

SICK PARADE

PLATT, Ron – 12 Portsmouth Street, Swindon, Wiltshire SN1 2LF has suffered a serious operation, we understand but hopes to be able to attend the South Midlands branch function at Blunsdon on 27th October. We all hope so too.

SANDELS, Joyce Mrs. – Of Lechlade, Gloucestershire. (Complete address not known – Ed.) This lady has also been ill and all old friends will be wishing her better health soon. Joyce is the widow of the late Dennis Sandels.

OWEN, Betty Mrs. – Widow of the late Tom Owen has suffered from three heart attacks in recent years, we have been informed. Her nearest old comrade is Jim Bamford although we do not seem to have her actual address. We assume this lady lives in Devon and hope she will not suffer further from this nasty problem.

SEYMORE, R. G. – 8 Kilmorley Park, Chester, Cheshire CH2 3QS has been in hospital he tells us following a heart attack. He already suffers from diabetes. But the good news is, he seems from his letter to be greatly improved. So well done. His wife won first prize in the Derby Sweepstake this year so that should be a tonic in itself. (Cannot think of a more deserving winner – Ed.)

BROTHERS, Frank – (New address not to hand – Ed.). We are sorry to learn that Frank suffered from a severe stroke and was admitted to North Shore Hospital back in the summer. It is likely he will be chairbound to a great extent. All his many former comrades will wish him a greatly improved quality of life and all news will be appreciated at the editor's desk.

STEWART, N. S. (Paddy) – 39 Walter Street, Takapuna, Auckland 9, New Zealand has been below par with (a) his bronchial asthma which still bothers him, he states in a latter, and (b) an operation on his feet, giving some

walking problems. This will not do and we trust there will be a marked improvement for this Kiwi/Ulsterman by the time everyone reads this.

DINES, E. R. G. (Dicky) – 10 George Terrace, Eastry, Sandwich, Kent CT13 0LS is not well at time these notices are assembled and required admission to hospital at Canterbury for an operation. Let's hope all is now well and he will be out and about soon.

GIBBONS, F. C. (Frank) – 26 Hungerford House, Churchill Gardens, Westminster SW1V 3BQ is now out from hospital after attention to his hip and it is to be hoped that he finds things much better than hitherto.

CASSELLS, Harry – 29 Conifer Gardens, Streatham, London SW16 2TY is in St. Thomas's Hospital, London at time of going to press and is undergoing what sounds to be an uncomfortable operation. We can but hope the end product will be marvellous.

PHILIP, Robert – We are distressed to learn that this old comrade of vintage times, No. 748, who joined the Force 6th September, 1930 has been in Oddstock Hospital, Salisbury where he suffered a limb amputation. Not good news but although we do not have his home address to hand we all wish him early recovery and adjustment to new circumstances.

BUTLER, E. (Ted) – 2 Morgan Road, Fasely Road Estate, Tamworth, Staffordshire B78 3LA has been obliged to suffer a hip operation, which can be very tedious although necessary. However, it is to be hoped that this usually very exuberant old comrade will again be seen tripping the light fantastic on certain Midland branch dance floors. We hope so.

GARTSIDE, Norman – 105 Chatsworth Avenue, Fleetwood, Lancashire FY7 8EN has at time of rushing to press just come out of hospital following a seven-week period in which he underwent several operations. This does not sound very pleasant to us but he is now home and is said to have remarked "I am not 100%". Be that as it may. We all hope he will be back on parade very soon.

GREENSTREET, C. W. J. (Charles) – Ravenscroft, Staplehay, Trull, Taunton, Somerset TA3 7EZ who was the subject of a Sick Parade entry in the last issue, is, as far as we can see, back home and has booked himself into the S. & W. Counties dinner-dance at The Courtlands, Bournemouth in December. Charles has a lot on his plate at the moment, particularly as his dear wife, Kathleen, is so very ill. May there be some sunshine ahead for this well-known old comrade.

SYLVESTER, Fred – 1 Karalee Close, Marsfield, New South Wales 2122 had a heart attack recently, although we have also heard that he is up and about once more. We are sure his dear wife, Beatrice, would wish us to say "Pray stop worrying us all, Fred. Stay better." We hope so.

HARNEY, Tom – 405 Tuggerawong Road, Rocky Point, Wyong, New South Wales 2259 has some sort of circulatory problem that leaves him feeling less

fit than he himself would wish. He is not very mobile but we do hope that he is looking forward at least to as improved a life style as possible.

REGAN, Tommy – Unit 3, 14 Hatfield Street, North Balwyn, Melbourne, Victoria 3104 is not at all well. All old friends will wish him improvement as soon as possible.

BRICE, Ernie, C.P.M. – 70 Raynes Park Road, Hampton, Victoria 3188, Australia is having trouble with his breathing department and is obliged to attend a day hospital. We hope all this goes well. (We feel sure this will not be Edware General Hospital, close to Ernie's former abode – Ed.)

BOWERBANK, Pat – Chy-an-Brae, Coombe, St. Austell, Cornwall PL26 7LH was admitted to hospital on 20th August last. He stated in a letter "I was feeling rather ill". Heart trouble seems to be the cause. Not a heart attack so much as a heart condition, the "medics" said. We are pleased to know this former D.S.P., cricketer, soldier, policeman and decent chap to boot is back on parade. Many who served under him in the P.M.F. will join us in this sentiment.

HARTNUP, Maurice – If any member can remember this ex-B/C 3246 he would appreciate a call on 0474 82 2881 or a personal visit. He is unable to write or get about owing to illness.

NEW MEMBERS

- 5181 GIBBS, W. A., ex-B/Sgt. 3448 – 60a Anglesey Road, Brownhills, Walsall, West Midlands WS8 7NX.
- 5182 DOUGHERTY, W. H. S., ex-B/Const. 32 – 197 Cedric Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M6C 3X7.
- 5183 HUTCHINGS, C. J., ex-B/Const. 3388 – Woodbine Cottage, Water Street, Deal, Kent CT14 6DN.
- 5184 LEE, T., ex-B/Const. 1800 – 278 Mauldeth Road West, Chorlton cum Hardy, Greater Manchester M21 2RJ.
- 5185 LILLEY, J. A., ex-B/Const. 3278 – 4 Lucinda Way, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 3JD.
- 5186 BAILEY, C., ex-B/Const. 3730 – 9 Wortley Avenue, Conisbrough, Doncaster, South Yorkshire DN12 3NJ.
- 5187 LEA, A. B., ex-B/Const. 1501 – 21 Orange Road, Barnton, Northwich, Cheshire CW8 4PD.

REJOINING MEMBER

- 4388 AINSLEY, M., ex-B/Const. 435 – 10 Percy Street, Tynemouth, North Shields, Tyne and Wear NE30 4HD.
- 128 BROWN, J., ex-B/Const. 3789 – 118 Shielfield Terrace, Tweedmouth, Berwick on Tweed, Northumberland TD15 2EE.
- 4300 CARTY, D., ex-B/Sgt. 3662 – 76 King Street, Wexford, Irish Republic.

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- 466 HOOLACHAN, R., ex-B/Const. 244 – 7 Queens Drive, Prestwich, Manchester M25 8HQ.
127 KIRKCALDY, J. E. D., ex-B/Const. 3948 – 348 Harbison Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R2L 0A7.
2923 MARPLE, K. G. E., ex-B/M/Const. 1952 – 6 Milverton Way, Coldharbour, Eltham, London SE9 (No postcode – Ed.)
325 NIDD, F. W., ex-B/Sgt. 2042 – “Tara,” The Street, Coaley, Nr. Dursley, Gloucestershire GL11 5EB.
556 PECKHAM, P. H., ex-B/Sgt. 2578 – Pallinghurst Farm, Rudgwick, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 3BQ.
1551 REED, J., ex-B/Sgt. 2795 – 6 Hyde Street, Duckinfield, Cheshire SK16 5NS.
1102 SEECKTS, G. F., ex-B/Sgt. 974 – 16617 – 91 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5R 5A3.
2239 SUTTON, C. T., ex-B/Const. 878 – 5 Appleby Green, Romford, Essex RM3 7SL.
2507 WOODHOUSE, R. I., ex-B/M/Sgt. 1668 – 8 Hatherleigh Road, Abergavenny, Gwent, South Wales NP7 7RG.

NEW DONOR MEMBERS

- D.207 PILKINGTON, Mrs. S. – 87 Old Meadow Lane, Hale, Altrincham, Cheshire WA15 8LA.
D.208 FUSSELL, Mrs. M. E. – 20 Milesmere, Two Mile Ash, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire MK8 8DP.
D.209 SCOTT, Mrs. J. M. – 65 South Lawne, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire MK3 6BU.
D.210 FISHER, R. – 1 Borkwood Park, Orpington, Kent BR6 9LD.
D.211 PIPER, J. C. – London Oratory School (Staff), Seagrave Road, Fulham, London SW6 1RX.

TRACERS

The undermentioned have fallen off the general secretary's map. Any information of present whereabouts will oblige:

GRAHAM, N. H. (ex-B/Const. 326). Last known address 6 Lowry Hill, Crawfordsburn Road, Bangor, Northern Ireland BT19 1BX or P.O. Box 8019, Causeway, Harare, Zimbabwe.

MEADOWS, E. J. (Associate Member). Department of Foreign Affairs, Canberra, A.C.T., Australia.

Flynn, M. T. (Paddy) – former B/Const. 3689, who served 29th June, 1944 to 1st July, 1947. His son, Peter, seeks information about his father, since deceased and whose death has not been reported. (See Obituary Notices – Ed.). He was then living at 48 Eggington Road, Etwall, near Derby and was at that time a member of the nearby Mickleover Royal British Legion. Peter Flynn is now an

Associate Member and naturally we would like to come up with something about his later father's service in Palestine. So who amongst you will write? The address to contact is P. Flynn, Esq., 22 Westloats Lane, Bognor Regis, West Sussex.

The secretary of Yorkshire branch, Reg Saxon, of 46 St. Paul's Road, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire HD5 0EX has an enquiry for the whereabouts of former Head Constable Robby Brooke, who dwelled in Tadcaster 1948-9. It is then thought he moved to Leicester. There is reason to believe that H/Const. Brooke is the same as Brooke of Armourer's Department at Mount Scopus, Jerusalem. The enquiry is from one of his staff, former B/Const. 4399 Eric Roberts. Anyone with something useful to add, please reply direct to Reg Saxon. (But Association records would also appreciate details of number, date of joining, etc. - Ed.)

We have had an enquiry from a Mr. J. C. (John) Lee of 117 Lockwood Road, Northfield, Birmingham B31 1QQ who is seeking the whereabouts of a John Patrick McCarthy (possibly Joseph) believed to have been a B/Sergeant in the Palestine Police who was injured in an explosion and thought to have been medically discharged 1945 or thereabouts. It is known that McCarty died in a motor-cycle accident in 1952 and was then aged 30 years but he was born in Ireland either in Cork or Waterford. On these details we have not been able to establish an old comrade who fits all the known particulars. We have, for example: McCarthy, F. A. (4480); McCarthy, F. J. (1569 - joined 4th October, 1939); McCarthy, J. J. (joined 4th September, 1934, later A.S.P.); McCarty, R. (2993 - joined 1st May, 1941); Carty, J. D. (2876 - joined 8th April, 1939) and Carty, D. (3662). None of these variant spellings fit the enquiry. If anyone can assist, please write to Mr. Lee direct and oblige. We thank Luke Hannon in Co. Dublin for his contribution to this enquiry.

Another letter that merits mention in Tracer Section is from Mrs. L. Neame, 48 Witney Street, Burford, Oxfordshire OX8 3SN. Mrs. Neame noticed an entry in a Sunday newspaper about the Palestine Police reunion dinner and parade in London. She seeks information regarding her uncle, who died about two years ago at the age of 79. She has always believed that he served in the Palestine Police. His name was Ernest Mead, lately of Riverall Street, London SW8. She believes he left Palestine in 1939. Any information please to Mrs. Neame direct. Perhaps a copy to us, so that we can keep our records straight.

Yet another tracer is sought, this time in an effort to trace a Bob Simmonds, presumably initialled as R. Simmonds, thought to have joined the Force in 1937-8. Information is required by Mr. O. J. Oliver of Gwynfa, Horsham Road, Gossops Green, Crawley, West Sussex. He used to work with Bob in the middle 1930s when the two lived at Lower Kingswood near Reigate in Surrey. Again this

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enquiry came about through the reunion notice in the press. Again we have no actual trace of this particular old comrade which is not surprising, considering the meagre records we inherited from Jerusalem and elsewhere. Again, we hope to help and should anyone know more about Bob Simmonds than we do, please contact Mr. Oliver direct.

There are many tracers in this issue and all form a challenge and are the subject of great interest. Another is an enquiry from a Mrs. Margot Levardy of 58 Kingston Close, Northolt, Middlesex UB5 5AL who seeks the whereabouts of former B/Sergeant 1526 Ian Dewar, who has long been a lapsee from this Association. Ian's last address, some 35 years ago, was c/o Packway, Durrington, Salisbury, Wiltshire. If anyone has an inkling of his whereabouts, perhaps they can contact Mrs. Levardy direct. It so happens this lady is friendly with H. G. R. (Harold) Catten (ex-1264) whom she knew in Jerusalem. Former friends and colleagues of Harold will find him at 24 Overhill, Southwick, Brighton, East Sussex BN4 4WN.

A final tracer entry is for a former British Constable Nathaniel Arthur Simeon Marsh, one-time bombardier, Royal Artillery and a regular soldier who left the army in the middle 1930s and joined the Palestine Police. He had left the Force by the beginning of the war. A school friend of early years is seeking his whereabouts and did hear that Marsh had gone on to serve in the Royal Air Force. If anyone can assist, please notify Mr. C. Lockett, Hilltop, Waldingfield Road, Chiltern, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 0PP and oblige.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

AULD, R. A., 13 Gainsborough Drive, Gunton, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 4LX (from Matheson Road, Bonor Bridge, Sutherland).
 AUSTIN, I. V, 19 Clive Lodge, Birkdale, Southport, Lancashire PR8 4QY (from Langadle Gardens, Birkdale).
 BARNETT, J. H., 52 The Peninsular Club, 441 Whangaparaua Road, Hibiscus Coast, New Zealand (from Hillsbrough, Auckland).
 BINSLEY, J. E., 6 Sylvan Avenue East, Mount Eden, Auckland, New Zealand (from Remuera, Auckland).
 BREACH, A. F., 3 Quail Court, Vega Close, Hailsham, East Sussex BN27 2PJ (from Swan Road, Hailsham).
 CLARKE, M. B., 4 Alveston Court, Holland Road, Hove, East Sussex BN3 1JP (from Haywards Heath, West Sussex).
 COOK, F. S., 10 Penshurst Mews, Easton, Norwich, Norfolk NR4 6JJ (from Guildford, Surrey).
 CROMACK, J. N., 7 Hungate House, Barton on Humber, South Humberside DN18 5RN (from Selby, North Yorkshire).
 deMEZA, J. M., 26 Barossa Street, Perth, Perthshire PH1 5NR (from 8507 Portimao Codex, Portugal).
 HASTINGS, D., 25 Winstanley Close, Cobham, Surrey KT11 2TO (from West Molesey, Surrey).

HOY, Mrs. A. I., 3 Essex Court, Essex Drive, Galmington, Taunton, Somerset TA1 4JZ (from Ramshaw Place, Galmington, Taunton).
 JENNINGS, Mrs. E. M., Crabtree Cottage, 3 Orchard Villas, The Street, Walberton, Arundel, West Sussex (from Birch Grove, Walberton, Arundel).
 KNAGGS, J. G., 86a Avonhead Road, Christchurch 4, New Zealand (from Flat 2, 86 Avonhead Road – an amended address).
 LONG, D. L., Honey Crock, 9 Monks Drive, Shapwick, Bridgewater, Somerset TA7 9NL (from Weymouth, Dorset).
 LUCAS, Mrs. B., 41b Woodlands Road, Gillingham, Kent ME7 2BU (from Oakenholt, Flint, North Wales).
 MacGREGOR, N. A., 1 Raleigh Court, Polebarn Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire BA14 7EF (from Osbourne Road, Trowbridge).
 MacLEOD, Mrs. B., c/o Mrs. Jo Wright, 6 Amberley Close, Bolton, Lancashire BL3 4NJ (from 20 Braemar Gardens).
 MARSHALL, R. N., 52 Woodside Park Road, Finchley, London N12 8RS (from Flower Lane, Mill Hill, London NW7).
 MILLARD, W. F., Millaton Lodge, Bridestowe, Nr. Oakhampton, Devon EX20 4NP (from White Hart Inn, Bridestowe).
 MOLLISON, C. D., c/o Miss Olive Ovington, Brendon Street, Birr, Co. Offaly, Irish Republic (from Esker, Banagher, Co. Offaly).
 MOSS, W., 104 Valley Road, Northallerton, North Yorkshire DL6 1SH (from Ashlands Road, Northallerton).
 PRINGLE, G. S., 31 Bishopsgate Walk, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 4FG (from Bristol Gardens, Chichester).
 SHAIKHAH, 'Abdullah Saleem abu., Post Office Box 15878, Doha, Qatar, Arabian Gulf (from Post Office Box 1615).
 SHARPE, J. W. G., 11 Scott Road, Safety Bay, Western Australia 6169 (from Blackthorn, Northampton, U.K.).
 SMITH-JONES, A., Maes Teg, Newton Road, Machynlleth, Powys, North Wales SY20 8EY (from Felinggrig, Machynlleth).
 WARNER, J. C., 19 Queen Street, Warley, Brentwood, Essex CM14 5JZ (from Wimbledon Chase, London SW20).
 YOUNG, W., 10 Terretbank Road, Crieff, Perthshire PR7 3LN (from Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire).
 ELSON-WHITE, V. Te Ngere Bay, RD.I., Kaeo Northland, New Zealand (from Whangarie, New Zealand).

THE SOUKH

Every Member of the P.P.O.C.A. is expected to have in his possession, for wear on appropriate occasions, some distinctive article or articles of utility or sartorial adornment which will identify him as having served with the finest body of men the Colonial Service has ever known – the Palestine Police.

The following articles, AVAILABLE ONLY TO PAID-UP MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION, may be obtained at the prices stated. As we have no staff to deal with credit sales or C.O.D., please send remittance with order. Members are requested to include in the remittance sufficient to cover postage, by surface mail or air-mail, whichever mode of despatch they prefer. Please check latest newsletter for prices.

THIS LIST CANCELS ALL LISTS PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED

		U.K. post/ packing
Ties, all silk 3¼" × 54"	£8.00	30p
Ties, polyester	£3.50	30p
Cravats, mens	£6.50	35p
Blazer Badges, silver-wire	£6.50	35p
Wall Plaques, hand-painted	£12.00	90p
Car Badges (radiator fitting)	£11.00	90p
Lapel Badges, silver and enamel	£1.50	30p
Car Key-Rings with O.C.A. crest (leather holder)	£2.20	35p
Blazer Buttons, large	£1.10	20p
Blazer Buttons, small	£1.10	20p
Windscreen Stickers, O.C.A. crest	30p	20p
Wool Scarves, association colours	£11.00	90p
Tea spoons, chrome	£4.25	35p
Cuff links (like cap badge)	£6.25	35p
Tie clips (like cap badge)	£3.15	35p
Ladies' silk square	£16.00	35p
Cassette, The Holy City and Edited address of The President (taken from A.R.D. 1984)	£2.50	40p
Christmas Cards with P.P. motif	£1.10 for 5	30p
Navy blue sweaters with white P.P. motif (badge) (sizes 34, 38) lamb's wool	cost	£1.30
Navy blue sweaters with white P.P. only motif (sizes 40,42,44,46) acrylic	£13.50	£1.30
White sweaters with blue P.P. only motif (sizes 38,40,42,44) acrylic	£13.50	£1.30
Ideal for the ladies	£13.50	£1.30
White pilot shirts Short sleeves – blue P.P. motif (sizes M, L, XL)	£11.00	75p
6 oz. hip flasks White P.P. motif	£13.00	90p
4 oz. hip flasks White P.P. motif	£12.00	75p

N.B. – Orders for remittances for the above articles should be sent to the Soukh Master who is Len Sexton, Flat 42, Barbara Brosnan Court, 46 Grove End Road, St. John's Wood, London NW8 9NP. Telephone: 071-289 0041. Cheques and postal orders to be made out to the P.P.O.C.A.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1990		
December 8th	Southern and Western Counties Branch ANNUAL DINNER/DANCE	Courtlands Hotel Bournemouth
1991		
February 23rd	London Branch DINNER/DANCE	Victory Services Club Nr. Marble Arch
March 16th	Midlands Branch DINNER/DANCE	Moat House Hotel Kenilworth
March 30th	East Midlands Branch DINNER/DANCE	The Swallow Hotel Normanton
May 25th	Merseyside and District Branch DINNER/DANCE	The Crest Hotel Liverpool
July 21st	East Anglian Branch REUNION LUNCHEON	Caistor Hall Country Club, Norwich
To be arranged	Scottish Branch DINNER/DANCE	–
September 7th/8th	South Eastern Counties Branch DINNER/DANCE and LONG WEEKEND	Coniston Hotel Sittingbourne
October 5th	ASSOCIATION A.G.M. 3.15 p.m.	The Cardinal Westminster SW1
October 5th	ASSOCIATION REUNION DINNER 6.30 p.m.	The Conference Centre Westminster SW1
October 6th	CENOTAPH PARADE and SERVICE 10.30 a.m.	Whitehall London SW1
October 26th	South Midlands Branch DINNER/DANCE	Blunsdon House Hotel Blunsdon, Nr. Swindon
To be arranged	Southern and Western Counties Branch DINNER/DANCE	–

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Every Member of the P.P.O.C.A. is expected to attend at least one of the following events which will be held at the P.P.O.C.A. premises, 103 Berwick Street, London W1V 3PN, on the following dates:

ANNUAL DINNER DANCE
The following events will be held at the P.P.O.C.A. premises, 103 Berwick Street, London W1V 3PN, on the following dates:

PALESTINE POLICE - O.C.A.

BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

Objects: To relieve need, hardship and distress amongst members of the association, their widows and other dependents.

Chairman: S. W. (Mickie) Hills, K.P.M., B.E.M.

Flat 57, Kemp House, 103 Berwick Street, London W1V 3PN

Telephone: 071-437 4483

Secretary: S. P. Johnson

19 The Crest, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 5NJ

Telephone: Southend-on-Sea (0702) 521805

(Registered Charity No. 282492)